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ARAB TIMES

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22 PAGES 150 FILLS

102 register

'Ex-deputies to contest polls'



Abbas Dashti

Ali Otaibi

Candidates speak

ABDUL HAMEED ABAS DASHTI, the 36-year-old merchant running for Rumaythiya believes that participation of Kuwaitis in decision-making is not new to them.

"I see my role as member of the council as an answer to my country's call of duty," Dashti said describing himself as a staunch defender of Kuwait against any "harmful political trends."

The ex-army officer believes that his chances for winning the elections are very good. In his campaign, which will start soon after the registration period is over, he will address issues concerning diversifying Kuwaiti investments, developing housing policy and a more flexible policy for employing new Kuwaiti graduates.

Reiterating his trust in the Kuwaiti ruling regime, Dashti said that he will also promise voters to review nationalisation policies and misuses of the previous parliamentary experience.

AHMADI candidate, **Saloom Hameed Al Otaibi**, 30, will call for implementing Islamic Sharia in Kuwait. "Kuwait is an Islamic country and we should not be following civil French Laws," said Otaibi who is deeply involved in Islamic studies.

Religion will be the main issue discussed in his campaign which will not feature feasts on slaughtered camels and sheep. "We will feast on spiritual food and preach Islamic teachings," he said.

Otaibi's campaign will also focus on improving public services in the area he is running for. He is optimistic about his chances of winning the elections because of the strong support he enjoys.

NEWSWATCH

USSR to modernise forces: Soviet Ambassador to Syria Alexander Zotov said on Tuesday that Moscow had agreed to modernise Syria's defences.

He said the agreement was made during talks between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Addressing a news conference in the Syrian capital on the outcome of Assad's recent working visit to Moscow, Zotov said: "Moscow is ready as she was before to ensure Syria's security... Syria should have a strong defensive base." (Reuters)

Stage not ready for Arab summit: President Hosni Mubarak appeared cool on Tuesday to the PLO idea for an emergency Arab League summit this month.

"Egypt is for any Arab summit but the agenda has to be very well studied so we can go to the summit with clear and understood resolutions," Mubarak told reporters after his May Day address to the nation.

Egyptian Foreign Ministry sources told Reuters Mubarak wanted to postpone a summit until Israel resolved its cabinet crisis and gave its final word on US proposals for a direct Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo. (Reuters)

Top Hindu priest arrested: Police arrested a top Hindu priest and 10 followers when they tried to march to a controversial shrine in northern India to lay the foundation stone of a temple, the Press Trust of India reported on Tuesday.

The Shankaracharya of Dwarka Peeth, Swami Sarupanand Saraswati, was arrested in Azamgarh district of Uttar Pradesh on Monday night, the news agency said.

They were on their way to the city of Ayodhya where Hindus and Muslims are feuding over a 400-year-old shrine. (Reuters)

'Supergun' affair: British police questioned nine engineering executives on Tuesday in connection with the alleged export to Iraq of parts for a "supergun."

A spokesman for Sheffield Forgemasters Ltd said six officials of group companies had agreed to a police request to make statements at local police stations.

"Until the position is clear, the company has nothing further to add," he said.

Sheffield Forgemasters, based in northern England, made eight Iraq-bound steel cylinders seized by British customs officers last month. Britain said the shipment could have been used for a 40-metre (130-foot) "Doomsday Gun". (Reuters)

Militants killed: Egyptian police shot dead 14 Muslim militants in a gunbattle, security sources said on Tuesday.

They said a group of Muslim fundamentalists threw a hand grenade at paramilitary police as they surrounded a farm in the oasis town of Fayoum on Monday.

Seven policemen were among 13 people wounded in the battle.

Police went to the farm to arrest three brothers accused of killing their father, who had apparently tried to persuade them into giving up their militant activities, the sources added. (Reuters)

70 killed in clash: Chad's forces attacked a camp of the Libyan-backed Islamic legion near the border with Sudan on Monday and killed 70 soldiers, the Chadman embassy in Paris said on Tuesday.

A spokesman also said 45 of the legion's soldiers were captured and several vehicles were destroyed or seized. He gave no details of Chad's casualties. (Reuters)

By Diana Abou Halder and Lima Al Khalafawi
Arab Times staff

AS of 1.30 pm yesterday, 102 candidates had registered for the upcoming Interim National Council.

Jahra constituency enjoyed the lion's share of 13 candidates followed by Fahaheel constituency with 10 candidates. Ahmadi, with 9 candidates, was not far behind.

So far one candidate each from Qibla, Khaldiya and Sulaibikhat is running for a National Council seat, while two candidates each from Mirqab, Hawalli, Abraq Khaitan and Om Al Haiman have registered. No candidates from Faiha or Rowda constituencies have submitted their papers yet.

Mohammed Al Barges of Al Seyassah adds that well informed sources said yesterday that a number of the 32 members of the 1985-National Assembly deputies, have decided to contest the elections.

A member from the group, Jasser Al Jasser said that he has decided to contest the elections. He also said that a number of deputies from the group of 32 will also file their nomination papers in the coming few days. Jasser was representing the Rowdah constituency in the dissolved National Assembly. He has decided to run for a re-election from the same constituency.

Registration will continue until May 9.

Following are the names of the candidates who registered on the first two days:

1st constituency — Sharq
Kathem Abdul Rasool Bou Abbas (Continued on Page 11)



Reed freed

US hostage Frank Reed, held in captivity in Lebanon for more than 43 months, was freed on Monday and handed to US ambassador to Syria. (Reuters wirephoto).

Full report on Page 8

Govt reopens contract jobs

CSC relaxes

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THE Civil Service Commission (CSC) has reopened the employment of non-Kuwaitis in the public sector with a new fixed-period contract which excludes end of service benefits. It went into effect yesterday.

Non-Kuwaiti recruitment would be allowed only in "certain jobs." The job categories were not defined.

Employment of non-Kuwaitis in the public sector has been discouraged as a matter of government policy to promote Kuwaitisation. CSC officials policy did not permit hiring non-Kuwaitis to fill vacancies arising from retirement, termination or death of any civil servant. Recruitment of Kuwaitis is given preference.

CSC Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Al Zaben said that the new contract, which eliminates gratuity payments, confirmed the new contract implemented from yesterday.

The new contract will not affect public servants who are already employed in different sectors, he clarified. It would be applicable to staff recruited on or after May 1.

Previously, the employment of foreigners was graded according to experience and education with a provision from promotion on performance/seniority and review of salary each year. Allowances and other perks were an added bonus.

On retirement or termination of contract, non-Kuwaiti employees employed under previous rules are entitled to gratuity payment on the basis of 8 per cent of basic pay for the first five years and 12 per cent for the subsequent years of service. This clause has been dropped. Under the new system, non-Kuwaitis would be entitled to get a maximum of 90 days payment in lieu of unavailed leave. The contract provides for 30 days paid leave per year.

Perks

The 10-point contract outlines the terms of employment fixing the salary for the first year of employment and thereafter, if employment continues. Salaries would be paid according to present grades but none of the perks would be applicable. There are eight grades for civil servants.

Article One of the new contract describes the service of non-Kuwaitis as "temporary employment" for a "fixed period of one year." An employee would be under probation for a period of six months, on completing which his contract would last for 12 months. It is renewable each year with the agreement of both parties.

If the employee seeks to terminate his contract, he would have to give two months notice before the end of the contract. Both parties — government sector employer and non-Kuwaiti employee — are entitled to terminate the contract without giving the reason at any time during the duration of a valid contract. In this case, three months notice must be given.

Sick leave terms have been included in the contract, which says that an employee, in case of illness, is entitled to two months leave with half pay. If the employee is not fit for service after four months, his contract would be considered terminated.

Previous rules say non-Kuwaiti public servants are entitled to six months sick leave with full pay and six months leave with half pay.

In case of the death of an employee, his family or heirs would be paid a month's salary, the new contract says.

2 US officials visited Tehran

Talks led to the freedom of hostages

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

TWO US State Department officials visited Tehran end of March in an effort to remove obstacles that block the way towards the resumption of normal relations between the two countries, according to a London-based Iranian journalist Dr Ali Reza Nouri Zadeh.

Washington has repeatedly denied direct contacts with Iran claiming that it was dealing with Tehran indirectly through third parties.

But Dr Nouri claims that the visit to Tehran was preceded by contacts between the US and Iranian diplomats in Europe, the first having taken place in The Hague, Holland, last August, on Tehran's initiative.

According to Nouri, head of Iran's delegation at the International Court of Justice Halil Alah Halilian, a Rafsanjani supporter, then told the American delegate Abraham Safier that Tehran was ready to negotiate all issues that stand in the way of the resumption of normal relations.

The contacts were successful in that they led to the release of \$600 million worth of American-held Iranian assets, Nouri explained.

An American court issued an order last October mandating that a US oil company, which had taken delivery of Iranian oil but never paid for it, settle its debt.

Nouri says that before the end of 1989 two other settlements were reached that resulted in the return of \$200 million owed by two US firms.

This led to the second round of contacts, last October and December, between Vernon Walters, the US ambassador to Bonn, West Germany and Naffiri, the director of the International Bureau at the Islamic Republic News Agency.

According to Nouri, Walters then spelled the US demands that centred on the release of hostages, although he later claimed that he only gave an interview to Naffiri. Iran responded through its representative in The Hague.

This was, claims Nouri, when efforts to spearhead the hostage issue began in earnest.

Two Iranians played a key role in the plan, Iran's Ambassador to Syria Mohammed Hassan Abtahi and Rafsanjani's brother who heads the third bureau in the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Mah-

(Continued on Page 11)



Arab watches on

An Arab watches the Jewish settlers in the Christian quarter of the Old City yesterday as he sits at a sidewalk cafe with two clerics from Greek Orthodox church. The Greek Orthodox church owns the disputed building which was sub-let to Jewish settlers by an Armenian tenant several weeks ago. (Reuters wirephoto)

See story Page 9

Solve problems US, Iran discuss claims

Kuwait call to Opec

KUWAIT, May 1. (Reuters) Kuwaiti Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah today called on other Opec members to realistically solve problems facing the cartel.

The Kuwait News Agency quoted Sheikh Ali as saying before his departure to attend tomorrow's Opec market monitoring committee meeting in Geneva: "What Kuwait wants is support for Opec, support for oil prices stability and solving oil situation in a rational and realistic manner."

Oil prices have plummeted because of over-production by some Opec members, including Kuwait.

A Reuters survey estimated Kuwait had pumped 1.9 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil in April. It has an Opec sales quota of 1.5 m bpd.

Sheikh Ali said: "Kuwait, in its capacity as a founder member of Opec, is concerned about price stability not only to defend its interests but also to defend others."

While calling his colleagues in the ministerial committee to deal with the current situation in the market with a reasonable position, Sheikh Ali said: "No matter how big the problems are, we can install controls that are far away from slogans and verbal bids."

(See Page 15)

THE HAGUE, May 1. (Reuters) US and Iranian officials met today for talks on financial disputes arising from the 1979 revolution in Iran and Tehran's 444-day detention of American hostages, officials of both countries said.

The talks came after Washington thanked Iran for its help in securing the release in Lebanon yesterday of Frank Reed, the second US hostage freed in just over a week.

US State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer flew to the Netherlands for the talks with his Iranian counterpart, Goudarz Eftekhari, over cases before the Iran-US claims tribunal, a US embassy spokesman said.

Set up in 1981 under an accord which freed 52 US hostages in Tehran, the tribunal seeks to settle financial claims made by both countries.

"It is the eighth in a series of such talks (since last summer) and is part of long-standing efforts to settle legal matters. It was scheduled four or five weeks ago," spokesman Leonardo Williams said.

Iran receives Iraqi letter

NICOSIA, May 1. (Reuters) Iran's National Security Council today discussed a letter sent by the Iraqi government about Iran-Iraq peace talks, Tehran radio reported.

"A letter recently sent by the Iraqi government about peace negotiations and the regional situation was discussed in the meeting and relevant decisions were taken," it said.

It did not say what the letter contained nor how Iran had received it nor what decisions were taken. Iran has so far rejected peace talks with its Gulf war foe outside the framework of UN-mediated negotiations.

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, said Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati briefed the council on his meetings at the United Nations in New York last week about peace talks.

A UN spokesman said on Friday that UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar would meet Aziz in an undisclosed European city in May to arrange for resumption of negotiations.



May Day protest

Soviet radicals chant slogans during the May Day parade in Moscow. As President Mikhail Gorbachev watched, many in the crowd waved the red, white and blue pre-revolutionary Russian flag. (Reuters wirephoto)

See Pages 2, 6, 7

Iran brands United States as the 'epitome of state terrorism'

NICOSIA, May 1. (Reuters) Iran today denounced the United States as the "epitome of state terrorism," reversing an accusation levelled against it by Washington yesterday.

But a Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by Tehran radio, did not link the US charge to the prospects of further Iranian help in releasing American hostages in Lebanon.

"The totality of policies the United States as a world dominion has adopted towards Third World countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran, is a complete epitome of state terrorism," the spokesman said.

He was commenting on an annual report by the US State Department which accused Iran of being the most active state sponsor of terrorism in 1989.

The Iranian spokesman noted the downing of an Iranian passenger plane in July 1988 by a US warship in the Gulf as an example of "terrorism organised and directed by a state."

Washington says the incident in which all 290 people on board were killed was a mistake.

The spokesman also accused Washington of taking action to undermine or over-

throw sovereign government and assassinate political and religious leaders.

"The charge of supporting terrorism against a country which itself is a victim of it and has always opposed it on the ground of Islamic principles is nothing but an effort to deceive public opinion," he added.

Kidnap groups holding Westerners in Lebanon are waiting for the United States

and Israel to act before other captives will join two Americans freed in the last two weeks, Muslim fundamentalist sources said today.

The United States yesterday formally branded Iran and Syria as state supporters of terrorism, on the same day that President George Bush thanked them for helping in the release of American hostage Frank Reed. (See Page 9)

PEOPLE AND PLACES

SWANBORO, Georgia: What goes around came around during a national boomerang competition.

The fifth annual Spring Fling competition, sponsored by the South Georgia Boomerang Club, included events that focused on catching ability, distance and accuracy skills. In each event, competitors used different kinds of boomerangs. Enthusiasts even indulged in some stunts.

"Boomerangs—as American as kangaroos," read Linda Manthey said the competitions bring little in the way of riches. Prizes usually are trophies, or another boomerang. (AP)

SEATTLE: The world's highest garage will soon go to the highest bidder.

The Mount Everest international peace climb will be picking up debris that previous climbing expeditions left behind.

The climbers estimate they can fill more than 50 bags with mountainous debris. Expedition leader Jim Whittaker said the climbing teams hope to sell the stuff at auction.

"We've decided to pick up some of the older stuff, from the 24,000-foot level, and ship it back and have an auction," Whittaker said. "I think people would really like to have a trophy from the highest place in the world." (AP)

FREMONT, Michigan: After 78 years, Gerber Products Co. this week will ban the public from watching how babies' carrots are crushed and their peas pureed, partly for fear of industrial espionage.

"We realize there's nothing that can replace a plant tour—the sights, the sound, the noise," said Gerber spokesman Steve Peck.

"But plant tours have really become an anachronism. It's just a reality of modern technology," he said. "We know our competition has been through the tour because we've spotted their sales reps. We can't afford to take any chances." (AP)

NEW YORK: Lucie Arnaz says her mother Lucille Ball kept her television on almost all the time but preferred game shows to situation comedies.

"I don't think she liked sitcoms very much in general after a while," Arnaz said in the May 7 issue of People magazine. "But she did like to watch 'Wheel of Fortune.' Whenever we were eating dinner it was always on. I guess that's a sitcom in itself."

Miss Ball died in April 1989. (AP)

BEVERLY HILLS, California: Bruce Springsteen is trading in Thunder Road for Rodeo drive, paying nearly \$14 million for an estate in Beverly Hills.

The rock star, whose girlfriend and former backup singer Patti Scialfa is expecting their first child, closed the deal on the 4.1-acre (1.8-hectare) property last week, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

The estate contains hundreds of trees, a Mediterranean house and an English-style house. (AP)

LAS VEGAS: Michael Jackson is teaming up with gaming mogul Steve Wynn to design a mountain and water attraction behind the new \$630-million Mirage Hotel, the casino owner says.

Wynn said Sunday that he and Jackson plan to build a mountain resembling Hawaii's Diamond Head peak at the cost of up to \$15 million.

The project will include two swimming pools, a dolphin lagoon, a water slide and plush villas reserved for the casino's high-rollers, Wynn said. It is scheduled to open in September.

"Fantasy is everything," Wynn said. (AP)

NEW YORK: Hugh Hefner was relegated to the waiting room while the Playboy founder's wife Kimberly Conrad was giving birth to their first child.

"Kimberly didn't want me in the delivery room, and I didn't really want to be there," Hefner, 64, said in the May 7 issue of People magazine. "She just felt it was a time of embarrassment. She's a very private person."

Their son, Marston Glenn, was born April 9.

Hefner does not think his family-man image will hurt business.

"Quite the contrary," he said. "America loves a redeemed sinner." (AP)

CHARLESTON, Illinois: Eastern Illinois University is honouring one of its dropouts, folk singer Burl Ives.

The university named an art studio after the 81-year-old folk singer and actor, who enrolled at the college in 1929 but dropped out in his third year as his grades slipped.

Ives said it felt good to be back at Eastern, despite not having a degree. He said he hoped that people who use the building will follow his example and go where their creativity takes them.

After leaving college, Ives' wanderings as a hobo and as a troubadour took him through 46 states, and he memorized some 500 folk songs. (AP)

AUSTIN, Texas: Jury selection began Monday for the trial of a man who faces a possible life prison sentence if convicted of poisoning a famous, centuries-old oak tree.

Paul Stedman Cullen, 46, is accused of pouring the herbicide velpar around the base of the Treaty oak, where, according to folklore, Stephen F. Austin signed a treaty with Indians in the 1820s. Austin is regarded as the Father of Texas. (AP)

PARIS: Antoine Vitez, the administrator of the Comedie Francaise, France's most famous theatre, died on Monday after suffering a brain haemorrhage, a spokeswoman at the theatre said. He was 59 years old. (Reuters)

Second time

JFK Jr fails Feb bar exam

NEW YORK, May 1, (Reuters): John F. Kennedy Jr. has failed the state bar exam a second time. And if the son of the slain president fails it a third time, he will be forced to resign his job as a prosecutor with the Manhattan district attorney's office.

A spokeswoman for the office said that Kennedy, 29, learned two days ago that he had failed the February exam.

Kennedy, a graduate of New York University Law School, failed the exam on his first try last July.

Failure to pass the exam means that Kennedy cannot present the district attorney's office in court, she said.

However, he can continue his present job—interviewing complainants, investigating complaints and writing reports.

Kennedy works for the special prosecutions bureau of the office, which handles a variety of cases, such as consumer fraud. He earns \$30,000 a year.

The next bar exam will be given in July and the spokeswoman expected that Kennedy would make his third try then.

Kennedy is not the first of his celebrated clan to fail the test. A cousin, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., failed it in 1983 while working for the Manhattan district attorney's office. However, he was admitted to the New York bar two years later.



Suspect killer

Spanish police distributed on Monday an identikit of a pale man wearing a cap, who they suspect killed Charles Wilson, a member of Britain's Great Train Robbery gang last week. Witnesses have described the suspect killer, as being strongly-built, about 1.75 metre (5'10") tall with clear eyes and short hair. (Reuters wirephoto)

Addictive

Television depressing

CHICAGO, May 1, (Reuters): While people often watch television to fill their leisure time, the viewing habit promises pleasure but usually leaves one feeling worse, the author of a new US psychological study of the medium said yesterday.

"People worldwide are becoming dependent on television and other mass media to make them feel okay, to help them manage their lives," said Robert Kubey, a communications professor at Rutgers University and co-author of a new book, "Television and the Quality of Life: How viewing shapes everyday experience."

The book, written with University of Chicago research psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, summarised and interpreted data obtained from some 1,200 subjects who answered questions about what they were doing and how they felt when contacted at random by an electronic beeper.

The studies, conducted over a 12-year period, found Americans spend an average of half their leisure time watching television, and heavy viewers find themselves feeling worse and less able to concentrate after watching it. Kubey said that television viewing tends to produce passivity and a lack of self-reliance as heavy viewers become less able to entertain themselves.

Kubey said television is definitely habit-forming for many people.

NEW ORLEANS, Louisiana: Artists and shop owners driven to distraction by loud brass bands blaring Dixieland jazz in the heart of the French quarter lost their fight Monday to establish court-ordered quiet.

State judge Richard Gamache rejected a request that police be ordered to enforce New Orleans anti-noise ordinances in Jackson Square, an area of stone sidewalks and greenery between the quarter's St Louis cathedral and the Mississippi river. (AP)

LAS VEGAS, Nevada: Blues legend BB King left a Las Vegas hospital Monday in "excellent spirits" after being hospitalised for a diabetes attack over the weekend.

King, who had to cancel performances at the New Orleans jazz and Heritage festival over the weekend, returned to his Las Vegas home for two weeks of recuperation, his manager said.



Eurovision song contest

Spanish group Azucar Moreno perform their song during rehearsals for the Eurovision song contest in Zagreb on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Study on mortality

Married people live longer

PRINCETON, New Jersey, (UPI): Married people live longer than those who are single, widowed or divorced, according to a 50-year, cross-cultural study released yesterday.

An analysis of death rates for single, married, widowed and divorced men and women in 16 developed countries as far back as 1940 confirmed findings from numerous earlier studies that married people tend to live longer.

The results of the lengthy study, conducted by Yuanren Hu and Noreen Goldman of Princeton University, were announced in the May issue of the journal Demography.

The average mortality rate for unmarried men is twice as high as that for married men and for unmarried women it is 1-1/2 times higher, the study found. Divorced persons, especially divorced men, generally had the highest death rates among all the unmarried groups.

The study found divorced and widowed persons in their 20s and 30s had particularly high risks of dying, relative to married persons of the same age.

By contrast, among single persons, the highest risks were usually associated with men and women between their late 20s and early 40s.

In most countries, the excess mortality of the

unmarried over the married has increased over the past two to three decades, according to the study.

For example, the study found that single persons in most countries experienced an increase of about 10 per cent to 20 per cent in their mortality ratios. The trends in these ratios for divorced persons varied widely from country to country, ranging from an 85 per cent increase for males in France to notable decreases for males and females in Canada and Portugal.

Japan emerged as the most apparent exception to most of the study's generalisations in that its mortality ratios for single men and women—3-1/2 times higher than its married population—were so much higher than the general pattern found in the other countries.

Japan's mortality ratio for single women is 70 per cent higher than it is for the country with the next highest ratio.

However, while most other countries saw their mortality ratios for single persons increase in the years between 1955 and 1980, Japan's dropped 40 per cent.

"We were struck by the general similarity of the results across the countries we studied and by Japan's anomaly," Goldman said.

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Bush's pledge, pat for Endara

WASHINGTON, May 1. (AP) — Panamanian President Guillermo Endara today heads for the US Congress, where a bill containing \$420 million for his country is slowly making its way through a tangle of unrelated amendments.

Senate majority leader George Mitchell said he hoped to complete the supplemental money bill today. If he is successful, the bill then would go to a conference with the House of Representatives to work out differences between competing versions.

Endara, who met with President George Bush yesterday, planned to confer today with powerful congressmen, including House Speaker Thomas Foley, and with Mitchell and Senate minority leader Bob Dole.

Prospects for the bill brightened late yesterday when the Senate accepted by voice vote two provisions that had been road blocks.

Bush told Panama's new leader that the United States "will stand with you in peace," but said he was embarrassed by congressional delay on a \$500 million aid request for Panama and Nicaragua.

Saying "the struggle is not over in Panama," Bush chastised Congress for not moving quicker on his aid package for Panama and Nicaragua.

"I've asked and asked again that our aid package to the newly liberated people of Panama be passed and passed swiftly. And still it waits, and with it the future of the fledgling democracy," said Bush, Endara at his side, after the two leaders met for 2-1/2 hours.

Praise
In a departure ceremony, Bush praised Endara as "a consensus builder" who "won the confidence of Panamanians and all Americans."

Endara was installed as president last Dec 20 after US invasion forces toppled the government of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega. Bush is seeking a quick infusion of US aid to help restart the country's economy, stalled by US economic sanctions and damage from the invasion.

The aid measure also includes \$300 million that Bush requested for the new democratic government of Nicaragua, along with hundreds of millions in spending added by Congress for domestic programmes ranging from food stamps to veterans' benefits and local projects.

During Endara's White House visit, Bush announced plans to nominate the first Panamanian to manage the Panama Canal: Gilberto Guardia Fabrega, 60, president of a Panama City Architectural and Engineering Company. The 1978 Panama Canal treaties call for a Panamanian to be put in charge this year, subject to Senate confirmation.

Bush and Endara also signed four agreements, three on anti-drug co-operation and the fourth allowing peace corps volunteers to return to Panama.

"Panama, a nation newly reborn in liberty, can count on the support of the United States of America. We were with you in times of conflict, and we will stand with you in peace," Bush said.

Endara, speaking in Spanish, thanked Bush for the US role in restoring democracy and freedom to Panama. Then, switching to English, Endara told the President: "The people of Panama will always be grateful for the support and friendship of the American people and for the sunshine of freedom we currently enjoy."

He invited Bush to come to Panama as soon as possible. "Be careful, I might just show up," Bush said.

Endara, making his first visit to the United States, was installed as president under US auspices four months ago by the American invasion of Panama.

Before the meeting, Bush addressed the US Chamber of Commerce and called anew for Congress to approve emergency aid for Nicaragua and Panama.

"It is embarrassing," Bush said, noting that his request was still pending even as Endara made his first visit as president to Washington.

"It is frustrating to see the Congress delaying its work," Bush said, noting that he had submitted his aid request on March 13 and asked that it be approved by April 5.

"Nicaragua and Panama quite simply need this aid and we've got to deliver," the President said.

One of the accords signed by Endara and Bush would allow the US military to board Panamanian-flag vessels suspected of carrying narcotics.

Unita calls for truce

French workers abducted

LISBON, Portugal, May 1. (AP) — Jonas Savimbi's US-backed Unita rebels yesterday called for a truce in their 15-year civil war with Angola's Marxist government. A statement released in Lisbon and signed by Savimbi and top-ranking rebels said: "The vehement desire of Unita is that in June, 1990, the government in Luanda and Unita will sign an effective and lasting ceasefire."

Unita, or the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, also said it ended as of midday Monday "all propaganda hostile to the government of Luanda and its leaders."

It said the rebels were willing to make further concessions to secure peace but stated firmly that Unita would never recognize the government's legality or legitimacy.

The statement followed an emergency meeting of Unita's politburo Sunday at its Jamba stronghold in southern Angola.

The Portuguese government two days earlier had announced that the first direct talks between government and rebel officials had taken place since a truce collapsed last summer.

The recent talks were held last Tuesday and Wednesday in Evora, 150 kms (90 miles) east of Lisbon. Other talks

were scheduled, but the dates were not released.

After meeting with Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva yesterday, Angolan Foreign Minister Pedro de Castro van Dunem said: "I'm convinced the obstacles that still exist will be overcome in the talks and we will be able to find a way to bring peace."

The statement also called for the involvement of the United States, the Soviet Union, Cuba and Zaire as observers in further peace talks. Luanda rejects direct involvement by non-African countries.

The rebels are calling for multi-party democracy in the southern African nation, while the government has been insisting that the rebels recognize its single-party rule.

Four French employees of an oil prospecting firm have been taken hostage along the Congo-Angola border by secessionist rebels from the Angolan enclave of Cabinda, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The ministry said a total of 13 French workers were captured in a raid Friday, and nine were released immediately. Efforts were under way to obtain the release of the four captives, the ministry said without elaboration. The ministry said the abductions occurred at a work site in the Congo, near the border with Cabinda.



President Violeta Chamorro speaks at a news conference. (Reuter wirephoto)

Chamorro faces political unrest

Appeals for support

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, May 1. (AP) — President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro's new government faces protest marches today by two rival labour groups — one demanding pay raises and a crackdown on rebels and the other a shakeup of the military.

Chamorro, speaking yesterday at her first news conference since she took office last Wednesday, appealed to both friends and foes to support her government, promising to enact reforms as soon as she can. She also gave an idea of the economic difficulties she faces, saying the Sandinistas had left only \$3 million in the treasury and an \$11-billion foreign debt.

"That is why it is urgent that we apply severe measures that will allow us in the short term to stabilise the currency and prices, to guarantee investment and the productive effort now that this year's agricultural cycle is starting," she said.

Last week, Chamorro devalued Nicaragua's cordoba currency by about half.

She promised that the retention of Gen. Humberto Ortega, the brother of former president Daniel Ortega, as chief of the armed forces will be temporary and she will hold talks tomorrow with rebel military chief Israel Galesano to convince him to disarm.

A leftist Sandinista union demanding 100 per cent pay raises for everyone and the

demobilisation of the rebels have planned one of the marches to commemorate International Labour Day today. Four anti-Sandinista unions insisting on Gen. Ortega's removal plan the second March.

Chamorro's decision to become her own defence minister and keep Gen. Ortega as army commander split even her own 14-party United National Opposition, which she led to a landslide victory in election Feb 25.

Leaders of the rebels, known as Contras, also balked at Gen. Ortega's retention, saying they will not surrender their weapons to United Nations peacekeepers as they promised to by June 10, and insisting the army's officer corps should be purged of Sandinista senior officers.

An estimated 30,000 people were killed in the civil war that lasted for nine of the 10 years of Sandinista rule.

Chamorro said she understood her supporters "would like a drastic and immediate change" in the armed forces, but, "we need to do things well, even if it means resuming temporary sacrifices to guarantee the tranquility and stability of the country."

She repeated that she had told Gen. Ortega several times his job was temporary, and she explained she kept him on "to ensure the unity and discipline of the army" while the US backed Contras disarm.

270 legal experts killed in '89: report

WASHINGTON, May 1. (AP) — More than 270 lawyers, judges and other legal professionals world-wide were killed or persecuted last year, in part because of their association with unpopular causes or because they championed human rights, a legal watchdog group said today.

Sixty-eight judges and lawyers were slain in 1989, at least 27 of them in the rising tide of violence directed against legal professionals in Colombia, according to the annual report of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights.

The report also listed 112 incidents in which legal professionals were detained and 97 in which they faced threats or other persecution in 48 countries in most regions of the world. Michael Posner, the group's executive director, said that in describing the persecution of lawyers the committee does not associate itself with their political or philosophical outlooks.

The report said fully one-quarter of the attacks or intimidation against lawyers and judges occurred in Colombia, where such violence has become commonplace.

It noted that at least 225 judges, magistrates and court workers have been killed in Colombia since 1980 in both political and drug-related violence.

Among the cases cited in the 118-page report were these:

■ The detaining of 13 lawyers and one judge after the June 1989 military coup in the Sudan and the banning of all legal associations, including the Sudanese Bar Association. At least nine lawyers remain in detention without charge or trial.

■ Carlos Escobar Pineda, a prosecutor in Peru, was fired after issuing an investigative report that reportedly implicated members of the Peruvian military in the massacre of 28 people in the village of Cayara. Escobar fled Peru after receiving death threats. Nine witnesses to the killings were allegedly murdered.

■ Two lawyers in Sri Lanka were killed after filing habeas corpus proceedings on behalf of families seeking detained or "disappeared" people.

■ Joao Carlos Batista, a land rights lawyer in Brazil and a socialist deputy in a state legislature, was shot dead in front of his home after being placed on death lists for campaigning for agrarian reform and providing legal help to squatter peasants.

■ Muhammad Shadid, a Palestinian defence lawyer active in a boycott of Israeli military courts, was ordered detained for six months by Israeli authorities without charge or trial.

■ The report also noted that in the Philippines, a lawyer was killed after filing a writ of habeas corpus for a political prisoner.

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Blacks warned not to demand too much

Talk about talks in S. Africa

CAPE TOWN, May 1. (Reuter) — South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha said yesterday blacks could not push the white minority too far without risking a backlash that could destroy the nation for all of its people.

Speaking on the eve of unprecedented talks between white and black leaders to explore the possibility of power sharing, he said he was convinced whites would accept radical change if a settlement was seen as reasonable and "civilised".

In an interview with Reuters and the International Television News Agency Visnews, he said it was essential for peace that a future government represented a majority of all of South Africa's racial groupings — whites, blacks, Asians and mixed-race coloureds — and not just blacks.

Otherwise, he said, conflict would intensify and "all is gone... gone for all".

Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC), which holds talks here this week with the white government of reformist President F. W. de Klerk, is demanding majority rule based on one-person one-vote in South Africa, where blacks outnumber all other races by almost three to one.

The government says it is committed to a universal franchise but with constitutional safeguards built in, giving some votes more weight than others to protect minorities.

Botha, speaking in his office on the 17th floor of the Foreign Ministry, said whites had "moved beyond" apartheid, South Africa's system of racial segregation, and the government was pledged to dismantle its remaining legislative pillars.

But he said the whites must retain their identity and rights to their own language, religion and freedom to associate with their own kind in their own neighbourhoods. The ANC rejects such "group rights" as apartheid in disguise.

Referring to a rising clamour from the pro-apartheid Conservative Party and white groups even further to the right, Botha cautioned the ANC against trying to extract too many concessions from De Klerk and his ruling National Party.

"Any political party or group in this country that wants to push in any direction too fast is going to have to reckon with that backlash and will have to decide whether it will be able to contain that backlash," he said.

"If the other side prefers to negotiate the future with the Conservative Party — over to them," he said.

Here said most whites would back the National Party government "if what we settle for is seen and perceived to be reasonable, civilised and would not disastrously affect their schools, their children and their values and their norms and standards."

Botha said violence in South Africa was no longer between black and white but between black parties struggling for dominance since the government released Mandela and legalised much opposition politics in February. Independent sources have counted about 500 killed, most in black communities.

Botha said: "If any single party in this country is bent on achieving hegemony, the sole right to govern to the exclusion of others, then the conflict will not end."

He said South Africa could not live on with people fighting and killing each other — "all is gone. It's gone for all parties, not just the whites but the blacks, coloureds and Asians."

The May 2-4 talks about talks "will try to remove obstacles to substantive negotiations on a new constitution after 350 years of white supremacy."

Botha, who has served 13 years as foreign minister, said it was "totally impossible" to predict now when real talks might begin. These initial talks could fail, he said. "There is no guarantee they will succeed."

The Democratic Party has asked the government to "authorise the formation of new political parties," according to the communiqué.

The government has been under growing pressure to accept opposition parties. March riots, sparked by government salary reductions and



Botha addresses a news conference after his return from Hungary. (Reuter wirephoto)

Necklacing

Makes gruesome return

JOHANNESBURG, May 1. (Reuter) — "Necklace" murder has returned to South Africa, with a nine-year-old girl and a boy of 14 its latest victims. Despite pleas from black leaders, the execution of political enemies by setting alight a petrol-doused tyre suspended from the victim's neck has re-emerged in recent months.

The South African Institute of Race Relations, which monitors political violence, says a score of necklacings have taken place in the past three months of warfare between rival black groups.

According to the institute's figures, this brings to about 350 the number of victims of South Africa's own brand of street justice, which began five years ago in eastern cape province townships.

Children and women are among the victims — and the perpetrators — of the practice of being burnt alive for real or imagined political crimes.

Most necklacings have been in Natal province, where the worst black-on-black violence in modern times has erupted between supporters of Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) and the Zulu-based Inkatha Movement.

But even the white areas of South Africa's racially-divided cities have not been spared.

Scores of passers-by last month witnessed the necklace lynching in broad daylight of a black man in Hillbrow, a teeming inner-city Johannesburg district where thousands of blacks live in contravention of apartheid laws.

Calls for gangs to end the barbaric practice were renewed when police last month reported the murder near the Natal town of Port Shepstone of a nine-year-old girl. She is believed to be the youngest-ever necklace victim.

Port Shepstone high school principal John Harrison said youngsters had unleashed a reign of terror in the area with the threat of necklacing and murder.

"Hardly a weekend goes by without reports of several necklacing and other killings," he told Reuters.

He said many of the killings appeared linked to the trading of "muti" — traditional medicines which fighters take to ensure prowess in battle.

Township sources said the nine-year-old and the 14-year-old were burned to death on suspicion of supplying muti to "the other side" in the civil warfare.

Morrison said pupils in his class stayed quiet when one student did not appear at school earlier this month.

He said he later discovered a 16-year-old pupil had been necklaced but no one was allowed to speak about it. The family was intimidated against taking up a traditional funeral collection or holding memorial prayers.

"One sees the change in the young people. They must be different in some way. You cannot witness these things and not change," he said.

Abidjan permits parties

ABIDJAN, May 1. (AP) — The ruling party has endorsed a multi-party democracy in a communiqué read on national television last night.

The constitution of the Ivory Coast, ruled since independence in 1960 by President Felix Houphouët-Boigny's Democratic Party, permits opposition parties. But opposition groups' requests to form have been turned down on technical grounds, and their leaders harassed.

The Democratic Party has asked the government to "authorise the formation of new political parties," according to the communiqué.

The government has been under growing pressure to accept opposition parties. March riots, sparked by government salary reductions and

increased taxes, expanded to include calls for the downfall of Houphouët-Boigny, who has ruled the Ivory Coast as a one-party state since it gained independence from France.

Because of the student-led protests, which forced the closing of the nation's schools for the rest of the year, the usual May Day parade of workers was cancelled today, the official government newspaper, *Fraternité-Matin* said.

Last week the government indicated opposition parties would be tolerated when it said "anything is possible," as long as order is maintained, several groups already have applied for registration as opposition parties.

One thing that the aborted coup would have achieved was to plunge Nigeria into another civil war, columnist Richard Akinola noted in a commentary in the independent Vanguard newspaper.

Babangida heard another warning this week from a man who is practically a member of his state house hold.

The chief Muslim leader at his shell-battered Dodan Barracks headquarters, Lieut. Mohammed Najune, told Babangida that other Nigerian leaders celebrating the end of the Ramadan month of fasting and atonement:

"Bad leadership creates dissatisfaction, disloyalty and sometimes rebellion."

Najune reminded Babangida that "the country's leaders must be constantly conscious of their responsibilities and remember the plight of the less fortunate, bearing in mind that they would have to render any account of their stewardship."

Babangida responded to coup plotters' charges that he planned to assassinate himself as president with a message to the nation promising to continue a transition programme to return power to civilians by 1992.

Pope John Paul II waves to visitors during his weekly general audience at the Vatican in February. (Reuter wirephoto)



Pope John Paul to visit Mexico again

VATICAN CITY, May 1. (AP) — Pope John Paul II is making another trip to Latin America, where the Roman Catholic church has changed dramatically in the 11 years since he first outlined his vision of its role.

The nine-day visit to Mexico, starting Sunday, will underline the changes since 1979, when John Paul set the tone of his papacy toward church activism in the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic region.

Maintain your commitment to the poor, the Pope told his bishops in Puebla, Mexico, but do not become partisan politicians.

In the ensuing years, the church has assumed a greater role in social and economic affairs and gained broader prestige in Latin America, but divisions have emerged between liberal and conservative clergy.

From without, the church is increasingly threatened by the aggressive proselytizing of evangelical Protestant churches.

It is challenged by the dramatic growth of poverty in a

region of vital concern to the Vatican. This is John Paul's 10th trip to Latin America and he also plans to visit Cuba, perhaps in December.

Latin Americans make up nearly half the world's 850 million Catholics. The Latin Church has influenced Catholicism worldwide with its bold efforts to adapt the Gospel to Third World societies.

Liberation theology, which links spiritual freedom to liberation from economic and social oppression, was born in Latin America. John Paul has sought to blunt the philosophy's effect.

"Certainly, what I feel in the last few years is what we feel a little in the universal church, it is a moment of what some call conservatism," said the Rev. Irmen Wilges, a Brazilian who is the Franciscan Order's counsellor for Latin America.

Despite that conservatism, the Latin American Church leadership has transformed itself.

Cardinals and bishops, once close to the ruling minority,

began condemning political repression in the 1970s, when brutal dictatorships were common. Frequently, the church was the only institution strong enough to stand up to the government.

Catholic officials who specialize in Latin America say the church leadership has extended its political role in three ways:

● Encouraging the establishment of democracy, particularly in Brazil and Chile.

● Serving as a mediator between the government and guerrillas, as in Nicaragua and El Salvador.

● Speaking out on problems facing new, fragile democracies, such as land reform, foreign debt and the rights of native Indians.

"The people have much more faith in the Church than they did 10 years ago," said the Rev. Jose Luis Castaneda, a Peruvian who is the Jesuit Order's regional assistant for South America. "I don't know if it's the merit of the church or the disasters of the politicians."

Cardinals and bishops, once close to the ruling minority,

Hubble antenna repaired

GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE, Maryland, May 1. (AP) — NASA engineers got the \$1.5 billion Hubble space telescope working yesterday with the help of a model built with a piece of lampcord and plastic sticks from a toy store.

The models helped engineers visualise what was jamming one of the primary antennas on the telescope, which was put into a 381-mile-high (612-kilometre) orbit last Wednesday by astronauts on the space shuttle discovery.

Analysis showed that one of the telescope's high-gain antennas was jammed when it brushed against an electrical cable that was too long by about an inch (couple centimetres).

"We are still investigating it to understand how did this really happen, why did it happen, why didn't we catch it?" said Jean Olyvier, one of the top NASA officials on the projects.

By this evening, the telescope should be in a condition where calibration and other normal start-up work can begin, said Mike Harrington of the trouble-shooting team.

The antenna jammed on Friday when engineers were running it through its paces. Sensing something wrong and trying to prevent damage, the telescope's computer shut down the whole system. The telescope's two high-gain antennas are designed to transmit data to two orbiting relay satellites at very high speeds. Detective work by NASA and its contractors teams led to an understanding of the problem.

Trial to distinguish keep, pros

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin, May 1. (AP) — The difference between a mistress and a prostitute will be explored in the trial of a former Playboy model accused with her twin sister of failing to pay taxes on \$1.1 million they received allegedly for sexual favours.

The twins allegedly spent alternate nights with David Krizik, an elderly businessman, for more than five years until June 1987, when he was attacked and beaten in his apartment by an unknown intruder. He died last year at age 89.

The defence won a victory last morning even before the trial of actress and model Lynette Harris, 35, got under way in federal court. At a pretrial hearing, judge Thomas Curran ruled inadmissible an affidavit that Krizik had given a federal agent before he died.

Ms. Harris is accused of accepting \$745,000 from

Krizik. Her sister, Leigh Ann Conley, who allegedly received \$406,000, is to go on trial in June. The government alleged the money was paid in exchange for sex. Ms. Harris' attorney, Dennis Coffey, insisted Krizik gave her the money out of affection.

The case against the twins raises questions about the subtle legal differences between mistresses and prostitutes and income and gifts, officials said.

Ms. Harris, of Mukwonago, who posed nude for Playboy magazine along with her twin sister, met Krizik in December 1980, according to court documents.

She claims to have lived with Krizik from shortly after their meeting until the day after Krizik was beaten, bound and gagged in his apartment. A lawsuit drafted for the sisters but never filed said

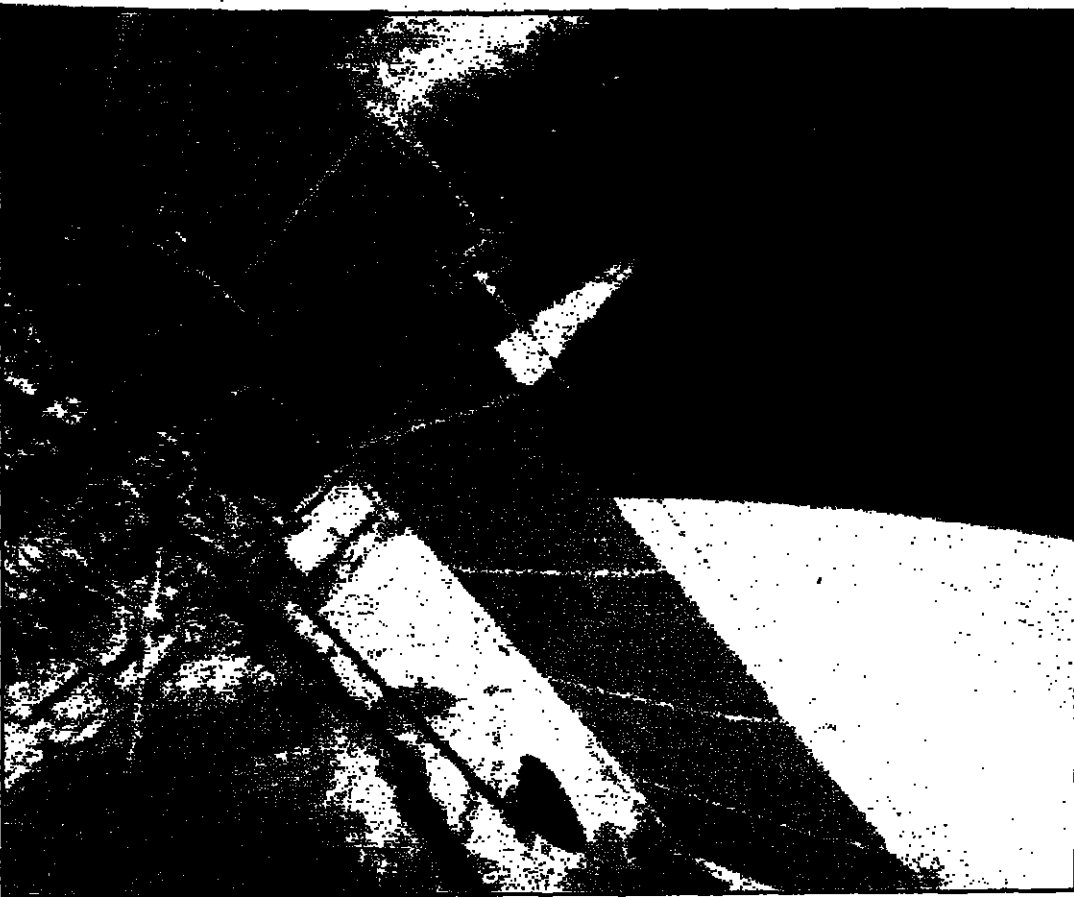
Krizik's son, Stanley, stepped between his father and the women that day.

The 22-page lawsuit was prepared after Krizik ended his seven-year relationship with the twins. Even though attorneys never filed the suit, the government said it can be used against Ms. Harris.

An internal revenue service investigator claims Krizik characterised as prostitution his relationship with the two women during an interview from a summer home in Palm Springs, California. But the affidavit with statements from that interview was thrown out yesterday.

The judge said he suspected that Krizik took the most expedient route "not realising he might place Ms. Harris in a difficult position."

"The court is of the position that Mr. Krizik found himself between the proverbial rock and a hard place," Curran said.



Nasa engineers succeeded in untangling an antenna on the Hubble space telescope that could allow the device to operate on limited basis. (Reuter wirephoto)

Birth rate reported falling worldwide

WASHINGTON, May 1. (UPI) — Women worldwide are having an average of 3.5 babies, researchers reported yesterday, and the global birth rate is continuing a slow but steady trek downward.

The fertility rate for 1988 represents a slight decline from the 1987 rate, 3.6 children per woman, and adds some hope that world population might be held below 10 billion in the coming century, researchers for the non-profit Population Reference Bureau said.

"That's the big question," said demographer Carl Haub, referring to the 10 billion benchmark figure some environmentalists cite as the point beyond which the world ecology cannot survive.

"All projections assume that all countries are going to see their fertility levels decrease," Haub said. "The question is when."

If the world reaches a "replacement-level" fertility rate of 2.0 children per woman by 2000, considered a wildly optimistic goal, total world population would level off at just below 9 billion by 2025, the annual report said.

But if the 2.0 fertility level is not reached until 2080, world population would surpass 14 billion by the end of the 21st century, it said.

"Most environmentalists we talk to say that if the population stabilises much beyond 9 billion or 10 billion, the planet is not going to survive," said Kathleen Mazzocco of the population crisis committee. "The sooner we can stop it from growing, the better for everybody on the planet."

The population crisis committee, in a report earlier this year, said governments worldwide need to spend \$10.5 billion annually on birth control by the turn of the century to keep below the population below the 10 billion mark.

Mazzocco said her organisation agrees with the fertility rates in the Population Reference Bureau report.

Most developed countries already are at or near 2.0 replacement level, while many developing countries have rates of 6 or 7, Haub said.

The Eastern African nation of Rwanda was found to have the highest, 8.3 children per woman, while Italy was found with the lowest, 1.3.

One of the sharpest declines has occurred in Bangladesh, which had a fertility rate of 6.3 in the mid-1970s but is now down to 4.9, the report said.

The motivation in Bangladesh, however, has been bitter medicine: "There's really no more land left" in the country, where interviews show women now want an average of only 2.6 children apiece, Haub said.

Neighbouring India has a rate of 4.2, a figure Haub said is considered disappointing because its decline from around 6 appears to have stopped.

Abortion Connecticut legalises first

HARTFORD, Connecticut, May 1. (AP) — Connecticut yesterday became the first state to give women the legal right to abortion in a law intended to stand even if the Supreme Court reverses its 1973 decision legalising abortion.

The Roe vs. Wade decision said states cannot ban abortions, but if the ruling were struck down, states would then be able to make abortion illegal.

Without ceremony, Democratic Gov. William A. O'Neill, a Roman Catholic who personally opposes abortion, signed the bill into law last afternoon. It takes effect Oct 1.

The bill cleared the state senate on Friday, 32-3, and the house the week before, 136-12. It repeals the state's unenforced criminal anti-abortion statutes, requires women under 16 to be counselled before getting an abortion and encourages them to tell their parents.

In a variation on the Supreme Court's Roe vs. Wade ruling, the new law allows abortions late in pregnancy, when the fetus is capable of living outside the womb, only when the life or health of the mother is in danger.

Mind gym to get into flow

The wave of '90s

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, May 1. (AP) — The customers don't sweat and strain at Maryellen Visconti's health club — they just sit down and close their eyes.

Visconti's centre for peak performance is a club for people seeking mental health.

Instead of muscle-minded slogans such as "no pain, no gain," Visconti urges her clients to "find the zone" and "get in the flow." Instead of weight machines, Visconti 2000, as the centre is known, offers a sound and light show using goggles that have little flashing red lights inside, around the eyeballs.

With the eyes closed, the lights flash subtle, changing patterns on the lids.

The light shows are supposed to help clients reach a sort of meditative state so they can enhance creativity and accelerate learning.

A session with the goggles, which usually lasts about 20 minutes, costs \$25.

Visconti stresses that she uses tapes, books and workshops to educate clients. But the nerve centre of her mind gym is a room with two comfortable black chairs, where customers settle in for sessions with goggles programmed to take them to "the zone" — something like a hypnotic or meditative state, achieved when brain waves go from the beta to the alpha level.

Visconti describes the beta state as hectic "chatter because of outside stimulation." The alpha state is a relaxed level where creativity and the ability to learn are at their peak, she said.

For Gary Antonick, winding up his studies at Harvard University's business school, Visconti 2000 sounded like a great idea.

Antonick, a fit and trim 27-year-old, said his experience as a swimmer first sparked his interest in mental gymnastics.

In college, at the University of Michigan, Antonick said he improved his performance on the school swim team through a technique called visualisation.

"I went from terrible to all-American due to just a few minutes a day imagining what I was going to do in the water," said Antonick.

Antonick said he has several goals for his mental workouts. One is to improve his game, literally. "I'm a terrible squash player and I worked on it for two months and I was still terrible," he said.

The other is to improve his mental skills — maybe pick up a language. And the third is to keep himself healthy. "Is it possible to cure a cold by visualisation?" he wondered.

There are scientists who say so far, research shows the best way to improve learning ability is the old-fashioned way: with hard work.

RAF plane with 10 passengers crashes in Scotland

STORNOWAY, Scotland, May 1. (AP) — A Royal Air Force plane with 10 people on board crashed into a hillside on a Scottish island yesterday the coast-guard said.

Rescue workers said bodies were scattered over the hillside on south Harris in the Hebrides, but an RAF spokesman said the air force could not confirm the number killed until all next of kin had been contacted.

"There was nothing we could do when we arrived," said Stornoway fire officer John Norman MacDonald. "It was all over before anyone could get to the scene."

Stornoway police officer Angus John MacVicar said, "You could smell the burning fuel. We then saw two or three bodies further down the hill."

Three rescue helicopters were sent out and fire engines went to the scene at Maoradal, a hill near the village of Northton, the Coast Guard said.

Last night, a yellow Sea King helicopter winched airmen's bodies aboard to fly them to Stornoway, the chief town of the islands, where the initial accident inquiry is to take place today. It hovered about 30 feet (10 metres) above the peak, lifting the bodies on stretchers, one by one, as rescuers and police looked on.

An RAF spokesman said the Shackleton aircraft took off in good weather last morning on a routine training flight from RAF Lossiemouth, Scotland.

A Stornoway Coast Guard spokesman said police were alerted by several calls from members of the public who said they saw a plane flying low and heard the sound of a crash.

The wreckage was not widely strewn and there was a fire but it went out, he said.

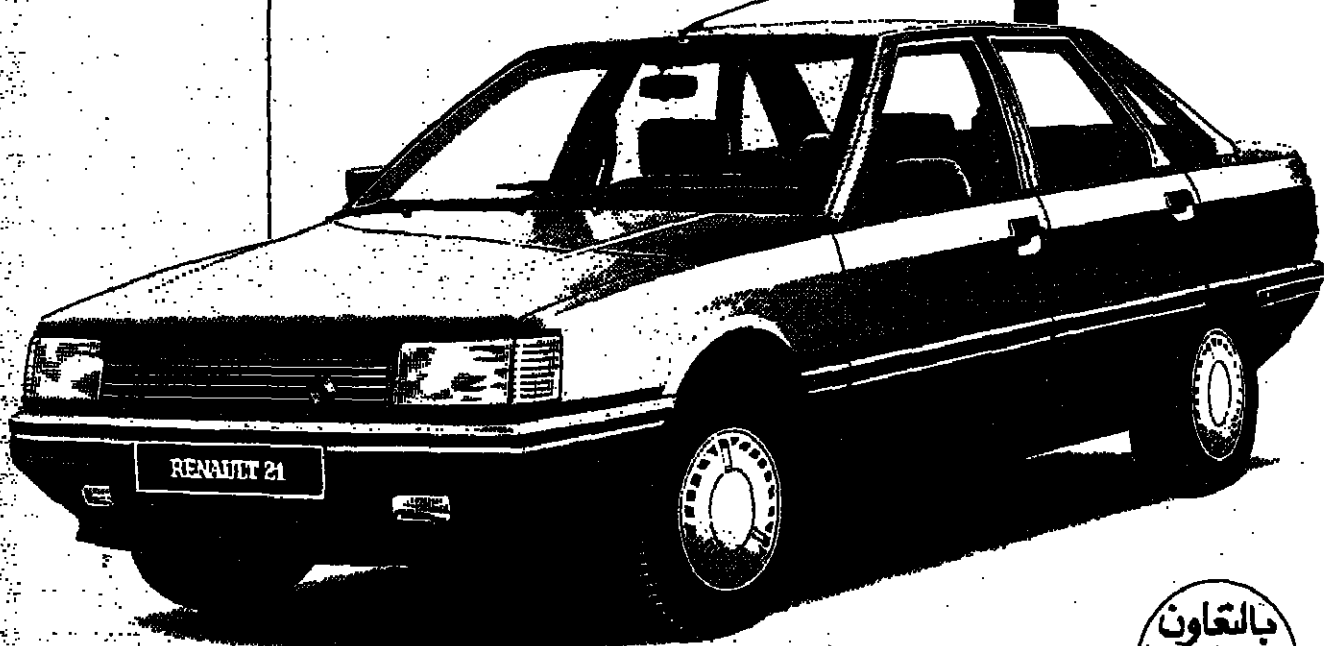
The Shackleton, a variant of the war-time Lancaster bomber, is used for long-range maritime patrols, and is part of Britain's airborne early warning system.

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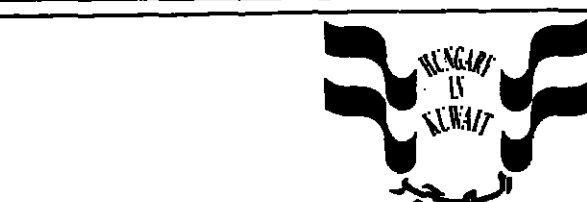
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NEWS IN BRIEF

America

Mormon ritual revised: In a rare revision of Mormon ritual, the church has dropped wording that required women to pledge to obey their husbands and portrayed the clergy of other religions as agents of Satan.

Women must now vow to obey God rather than their husbands in the "endowment" ceremony, a ritual the church teaches is necessary to enable members to be with God after death. The ceremony is performed only once for each person, but a member may go through it countless times as a proxy for those who have died.

The revised ritual took effect last month in ceremonies performed in the 43 temples of the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, as the denomination is called.

Mormons attending temple were read a statement from the governing first presidency informing them of the changes. The statement said the revisions were unanimously approved by the three-member body and the advisory council of the twelve apostles. (AP)

US health costs rising: US health care costs have increased so rapidly in recent years that they have wiped out most of the income gains achieved by middle-class American families over the same period, a public interest group reported on Monday.

Between 1980 and 1987, rising health care costs wiped out between 77 per cent and 91 per cent of real income growth for median income households, Citizens Action said in a new study.

Health care expenses have eaten up one-fifth of real US economic growth over the same period, "nearly twice the bite taken out of the economic growth of the nation's major international competitors," the group added. (Reuter)

Delay arms plant projects call: A coalition of citizen groups urged the nuclear weapons materials until it completes a study of how future arms production will affect the environment.

The main nuclear arms production plants have been shut down in recent months for safety and management improvements, but the energy department, which owns them, is preparing to announce plans for resuming production by year's end.

The department has agreed to comprehensively study the environmental impact of weapons plant modernisation, but it has not said this would affect its schedule for getting the main production plants back on line after lengthy shutdowns. (AP)

Random drug tests approved: The US Supreme Court on Monday allowed the government to force thousands of transportation department employees in sensitive jobs to take random drug tests.

The court, over one dissenting vote, rejected an appeal by a labour union that said the tests violate the government workers' privacy rights. Monday's action is further evidence the justices are willing to allow widespread random drug testing of public employees.

One Justice Thurgood Marshall voted to hear arguments in the case. Four votes are needed to grant such review. (AP)

Lava continues unabated: A 2,000-foot (600-metre) wide river of lava from Kilaua volcano destroyed another house Monday as it threatened to bury and burn the centre of this coastal community.

Kilaua, the world's most active volcano, was pumping all of its daily output of 650,000 cubic yards (500,000 cubic metres) of molten rock into the Kalaupapa area on Hawaii Island, and authorities had little hope the community would survive.

"This is a massive glacier of lava, at least a quarter of a mile (half a kilometre) wide, at least 10 to 40 feet (3 to 12 metres) high behind the front of the flow," said Hawaii County Civil Defence Administrator Harry Kim.

Kilaua has destroyed 120 homes since its last eruption began Jan 3, 1983. 44 of them in April.

Lava was a quarter-mile (half a kilometre) from the Kalaupapa store and drive-in and two churches in the town centre, which Kim said could be overrun by Tuesday at the earliest. (AP)

B-2 resumes flight tests: The B-2 Stealth bomber has resumed flight testing after a five-month respite, the Defence Department announced Monday in Washington.

The radarless aircraft took off from Edwards Air Force Base, California, Friday morning and reached an airspeed of 325 knots and an altitude of 35,000 feet (close to 11,000 metres) before touching down later in the afternoon, an announcement said.

"I'm very pleased with the flight tests results," Maj. Gen. Dick Scofield, the director of the B-2 programme said in a statement. Scofield called the six-hour, five-minute flight "an especially remarkable achievement" in light of the five-month layup for the plane.

Europe

Irish crackdown on smokers: Ireland launched a crackdown on smokers on Tuesday with offenders fined 100 punts (\$150) if they break new anti-smoking laws.

Smoking has been banned in cinemas, theatres, trains, buses, air and ferry ports, libraries and schools. Restaurants have been ordered to set up no-smoking areas and managers who fail to comply will be fined too. (Reuter)

Excavate Viking graveyard: Danish archaeologists are working at full speed to excavate a 1,000-year-old Viking graveyard before a motorway obliterated the site, museum officials said on Tuesday.

The recently discovered site, near Kinderdijk on Zealand Island, contains up to 70 graves from the 10th century, some with well-preserved skeletons, bronze jewellery, knives and other household objects. (Reuter)

Italian candidate killed: Vincenzo Agrippa, a candidate in local council elections,



May Day dancing

A couple performs ballroom dancing during festivities marking May Day in Beijing on May 1. China unlike other socialist countries does not have large military parades and ceremonies to mark Workers Day and instead holds dances and concerts in public areas. (Reuter wirephoto)



Rembrandt back on display

Dutch painter Rembrandt's celebrated 17th century canvas, "The Night Watch", was out back on display in Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum on Tuesday, less than four weeks after a visitor threw acid on it.

Figures on the cast canvas were obscured by a series of large white streaks after the attack, the work of a mentally disturbed man aged 31.

The paint layer escaped damage, however, and restorers had only to clean the affected areas and add a fresh coat of varnish before the picture could be returned to its normal position, museum spokeswoman Margaret Kolkman said.

She said security at the museum had been stepped up.

The painting had been attacked once before, in 1975, when it suffered extensive damage after being slashed with a knife. It dates from 1642.

was shot dead on Monday night in the second Mafia-style attack in the Naples area in five days.

Police said the attack was probably carried out by the Camorra, the Naples version of the Sicilian Mafia.

Agrippa, 47, a candidate for the Social Democratic Party in the nearby town of Pomigliano D'Arco, died on his way to hospital. (Reuter)

Franco's yacht on auction: The Azor, yacht of the late dictator Francisco Franco, was taken out of Spanish navy service on Monday and will be auctioned, a navy spokesman said.

Franco spent many holidays and sometimes held cabinet meetings on the Azor, used by the navy for the past 41 years.

Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez spent a summer holiday on the yacht five years ago, triggering a public outcry that recalled memories of Franco's rule. (Reuter)

WHO admission sought: Two European countries — Denmark and Switzerland — are applying for admission to the international agency for research on cancer.

The Geneva-based World Health Organisation (WHO) Tuesday said that the session of the governing council, which meets at Lyon on 3 and 4 May 1990, will discuss the requests of these two countries to become participating states. Their acceptance is expected to be declared at the beginning of the meeting. (Kuna)

US to proceed with troop cut: The US Defence Department plans to proceed with removal of some US troops from South Korea despite an intelligence estimate that has cut the warning time for any North Korean invasion to less than 24 hours, US defence officials said on Monday.

One of the officials, who asked not to be identified, said intelligence analysts now agreed that North Korea had massed so many troops near the South Korean border since 1986 that they could attack with virtually no preliminary manoeuvring.

The 24-hour estimate compares to an

estimated 48-hour warning time four years ago. And it compares to a recent increase in the estimated warning time for any Soviet attack on Nato because of the democratic revolution in Eastern Europe. (Reuter)

14 criminals executed: Three moonshiners and 11 other criminals were executed in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong last week, an official said on Tuesday.

An official from Guangdong's provincial radio station said by telephone that three people were executed for brewing and selling poisonous liquor that killed 20 people and blinded seven.

Three others involved in the case were given death sentences suspended for two years. Suspended death sentences are imposed in China to give criminals a chance to reform. (Reuter)

Medical mystery: Chinese doctors are alarmed at a new medical mystery — a young boy whose body can spontaneously ignite in the most sensitive of places, burning through clothing, an official newspaper reported.

The trauma of four-year-old Tong Tangjiang is said to have begun a fortnight ago when his grandmother saw smoke pouring from his trousers.

A hole three cms square (one inch square) was burned through two layers of clothing, China Youth News said on Monday. (Reuter)

Artists project Mao's image: An 80-foot-high (25-metre) image of Mao Tse-Tung was projected on the outside wall of the United Nations along with the words: "Support the people's war in Peru... Mao more than ever."

The black-and-white slide emanated from a projector and a portable generator set up by a half-dozen people across the street Monday night.

The protesters described themselves as artists and said they projected the image in honour of May Day, the international workers' holiday. (AP)

Japanese youths pessimistic: Japanese youths tend to be more pessimistic and less idealistic about their futures than their American counterparts, a survey revealed Tuesday.

The American youths, in contrast, show a more positive and ambitious attitude toward their lives, the survey indicated.

Conducted by the Japan Youth and Juvenile Research Institute, the purpose of the survey was to see how young people in Japan and the United States thought about their futures up until the age of 30.

A total of 46 per cent of the Japanese respondents said they hoped to find work at small- or medium-sized companies, while only 13 per cent wanted to become professionals such as doctors or lawyers or professors. (Kuna)

Latin America

Jesuit killing probe halts: The investigation into last year's murders of six Salvadoran Jesuit priests and two others has ground to a halt and is unlikely to bring to justice all those responsible, a congressional task force charged Monday.

The task force was appointed by Congressman Thomas Foley, the speaker of the House of Representatives, soon after the murders of the priests, their housekeeper and her daughter last Nov 16. Its report was harshly critical.

"As of mid-April, the investigation and preparations for prosecuting the case have come to a virtual standstill," reported the 19-member group, made up primarily of liberal Democrats opposed to President George Bush's policy toward El Salvador.

Nine military officials were charged following the murders, an unusual step in El Salvador, where death squads with military involvement have been carrying out executions for the past decade with apparent impunity. (AP)

American kidnapped in Quito: An American mining prospector was kidnapped and a Colombian riverboat captain killed by heavily armed men in a jungle region south of the Colombian border, the government said Monday.

An Ecuadorian crewman was badly wounded in the attack, carried out by an unknown number of men armed with automatic rifles and dressed in Colombian army uniforms, a spokesman said.

The attack took place Saturday on the Bermeja river, 80 miles (130 kilometres) northeast of Quito, the spokesman said. The identity of the kidnappers was not known.

The prospector was taken by boat up the Rumiayacu river, which crosses into Colombia. (AP)

Rebel replaces Pizarro: A former guerrilla crippled in an assassination attempt six years ago was named by a leftist coalition Monday to replace murdered candidate Carlos Pizarro in the race for president.

Meanwhile, Colombia's secret police force said it was unable to verify the authenticity of a letter claiming to be from Medellin cartel leader Pablo Escobar denying participation in the slaying.

The national police had suggested the Escobar was responsible for the murder. In another development, former President Misael Pastrana of the opposition Conservative Party urged President Virgilio Barco to resign before his four-year term ends Aug 7.

Field Commander Antonio Navarro, who was left with one leg and slurred speech in the assassination attempt and was once subordinate to Pizarro, will be on the May 27 presidential ballot. (AP)

Escobar a good friend of M-19: Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar, reacting to allegations that he ordered the killing of leftist leader Carlos Pizarro, said on Monday he had always been a good friend of Pizarro's M-19 Movement.

Escobar, reputed head of the Medellin cocaine cartel and Colombia's most wanted drug baron, wrote Oscar Pizarro, commander of the judicial police, to respond to police charges that he was behind the murder of Pizarro, shot dead aboard an aircraft last Thursday.

The letter, the first from Escobar in several months, carried his thumbprint to prove its authenticity.

"I'm not a friend of anyone," said Escobar in a letter to the official commentary said.

The Dalai Lama said today the lifting of more than a year of martial law in Tibet was just a "public relations exercise" by the Chinese government.

In a statement issued by his office in New Delhi, India, the Dalai Lama said the problems of Tibet will never be resolved "through intimidation and superficial changes." He called for a fundamental change in the attitude of the Chinese communist leadership toward Tibet.

failure for anyone to... 'independence of Tibet', the official commentary said.

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China celebrates May Day in subdued way

BEIJING, May 1. (Agencies): The capital was in a holiday mood today International Labour Day, but officials appeared braced for protest.

Armed police cordoned off a monument to China's revolutionary heroes in the centre of the vast Tiananmen Square, apparently as a precaution against protests. Sightseers who stepped within five feet (1.5 metres) of the cordon were warned away sharply.

Tiananmen Square was decorated for the holiday with a 15-foot (4.5 metre) - high portrait of Chinese revolutionary Sun Yat-Sen. In past

years, portraits of Marx, Engels, Stalin and Lenin flanked Sun, but starting in 1989, China said it would honour only native sons.

The monument was the headquarters of the student-led pro-democracy movement one year ago, and in this anniversary season authorities have been on guard against any attempts to commemorate the hundreds and possibly thousands killed when the army crushed the movement.

Soldiers in groups of several dozen marched along the square periodically, apparently as a warning. The army continues to occupy the history museum on one side of the square.

But Beijing residents, ignoring the soldiers, snapped souvenir photographs of each other. One young couple made their young son lie on the pavement of Tiananmen Square and painstakingly instructed him on how to aim his toy gun like a soldier.

Government and company offices, banks, schools and many shops were closed for a 1-2 day holiday that began at midday yesterday.

Workers had been required to put in full days on Saturday and Sunday to make up for the time off.

China has never had the tradition of some socialist countries, such as the Soviet Union, of holding military parades on May Day. Top leaders attended military song-and-dance shows during the past few days in anticipation of the holiday, but held no ceremony today.

In Seoul, tens of thousands of students and workers marked May Day with demonstrations protesting the government's crackdowns on striking union members and vowing to "crush" the ruling Democratic Liberal Party headed by President Roh Tae-Woo.

In Seoul, more than 8,000 students of 22 universities held rallies and staged demonstrations, throwing firebombs and rocks at tear-gas-firing riot squads, a police spokesman said.

In the industrial centre of Ulsan 190 miles (306 km) southeast of Seoul about 19,000 workers held May Day rallies and 4,000 of them battled riot police with rocks and petrol bombs. The domestic Yonhap news agency said in a report from the scene.

Some 1,000 students of Seoul National University held a rally and adopted a resolution denouncing the ruling party for mobilizing police to break up striking workers at the Korea Broadcasting System (KBS) and Hyundai heavy industries.

The resolution vowed to "stage struggles against the government party in alliance with Hyundai workers who are standing up against cruel suppression to push their cause."

The students tried to march off campus for street protests. When blocked by police they hurled bombs and rocks, witnesses said.

On last Saturday the government ordered 10,000 police to storm the shipbuilding complex of Hyundai heavy industries in Ulsan to disperse striking union members. More than 600 workers were arrested. Most have been freed but workers continue to protest.

Around midnight yesterday, police raided the KBS headquarters in Seoul and detained 333 reporters, producers and technicians staging a sit-in for the 19th day in a bitter dispute with management.

The police raid came after rank-and-file members of the KBS Union voted down a proposal by their leadership to end the prolonged job boycott and normalise the operations of the state-run radio and television network.

Official Chinese newspapers were filled with May Day editorials praising the working class for its "high political consciousness."

"This year the flowers are redder than last year," the Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, proclaimed in an editorial written in red ink. "Under the party's leadership, the broad masses of people are exerting themselves in the struggle for our country's stable political, economic and social development."

The word "stability" appeared seven times in the first three paragraphs, reflecting the government's No. 1 priority.



A Beijing resident shows off his medals awarded during a ceremony to honour 'Model Workers' on May Day. Unlike other socialist countries, China forgoes military parades and instead honours individual 'Workers' Heroes' for their contributions to the country. (Reuter wirephoto)



May Day rally

Around 5 million Japanese workers attended May Day rallies held in 1,400 locations across Japan on Tuesday.

The May Day rallies are considered to be one of the largest groupings of unions since last fall. The Rengo Trade Union Federation which groups eight million members organised the largest rally at a Tokyo park with participants numbering almost a quarter of a million. The Rengo chairman addressed the crowd and called on them to use their efforts in order to gain prosperity and social equality.

For the first time, Japanese Minister of Labour Shunpei Tsukahara attended the May Day rally and said that the unions and the government are working on shortening the working hours.

After the rallies, participants held a parade led by political non-communist opposition parties.

The trade union, which is affiliated with the Japanese Communist Party, held a separate rally at another park with 150 thousand participants from a total of 1.2 million members.

Addressing the gathering, leader of the Communist Party Tetsuzo Fuwa said that the Rengo Union is acting against the interest of the workers and the people by cooperating with the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

In the picture, Takako Doi (centre); chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party, leads more than 200,000 workers including her fellow opposition leaders, for the May Day rally at Yoyogi Park. (Reuter wirephoto)

Burmese tortured: Amnesty

LONDON, May 1. (AP): Torture of civilians by Burma's security forces is widespread and anyone criticising or even suspected of opposing the military government is at risk, Amnesty International said today.

The worldwide human rights organisation said it had new evidence from recently released political prisoners, refugees and other sources that torture thought to have been limited to areas of armed ethnic conflict is rife throughout the country.

In its May newsletter, Amnesty International said at least six military and civilian security agencies operating in more than dozen centres have been routinely torturing detainees for two years.

"The security forces seem to have almost unrestricted authority to carry out arbitrary arrests, to detain prisoners incommunicado for months without charge or trial and to interrogate them using torture," Amnesty International said.

It said thousands of people have been killed in pro-democracy demonstrations and, following the September 1988 military coup, thousands more were arrested for non-violent political activities.

Burmese authorities have not responded to repeated requests by Amnesty International to visit the country to discuss its concerns, the organisation said.

Amnesty International said the torture usually takes place early in a prisoner's period of detention during the initial questioning. Prisoners often do not have any contact with relatives or lawyers for weeks or months, by which time their injuries may have healed, it said. Even then, prisoners may not be authorised to see their visitors privately and therefore cannot openly describe their treatment, it said.

Royal wedding in Japan on June 29

TOKYO, May 1. Prince Aya, second son of Emperor Akihito, will marry college graduate student Kiko Kawashima on June 29, the Imperial Household Agency said today.

An agency official said a messenger from the emperor will call on Miss Kawashima, 23, and her parents at their home on May 11 to formally notify them of the wedding date.

The government plans to spend roughly \$1 million on the wedding for Miss Kawashima and the 24-year-old Aya, second in line to the throne after his elder brother, Crown Prince Naruhito.

After-Cambodia deal Ties with Viets

WASHINGTON, May 1. (Reuter): The United States said yesterday it would like to normalise relations with Vietnam, but not without a political settlement in Cambodia.

"We would like to have normal relations with all countries in Indochina, including Vietnam," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said at a news briefing on the 15th anniversary of the defeat of the US-backed South Vietnamese forces by communist forces from the north.

"However, the formal precondition for normalisation remains an acceptable political settlement in Cambodia which includes verification of the complete withdrawal of Vietnamese forces," Tutwiler said.

She said that the pace and scope of normalisation will also depend upon continued co-operation with the US on humanitarian issues including the fate of US prisoners of war and those missing in action in Vietnam.

Vietnamese officials have stated their desire to restore relations with Washington.

The United States imposed a crippling economic embargo on Vietnam in 1975, which is says should remain until Vietnam helps create a settlement in neighbouring Cambodia. Vietnam invaded Cambodia in 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge.

Big project for Shanghai uplift Investors sought

SHANGHAI, May 1. (AP): Shanghai has announced plans for an urban renaissance, but says it will need billions of dollars, lots of political savvy and about 40 years to do it.

The Pudong Development Project, which would transform the face of China's biggest city, already has won the qualified endorsement of Beijing. Now, Shanghai must persuade foreign investors that there is hope in this troubled city.

A former capitalist enclave, Shanghai has been the overextended draft horse of communist China for the past four decades, and now is plagued by overcrowding, pollution and a deteriorated infrastructure.

Most of Shanghai's 12 million people and thousands of factories compete for land, air and water in teeming Puxi, the area on the west side of the Huangpu river.

The development of Pudong, the area east of the Huangpu, would shift factories, homes and people to the 350-square km (140-square-mile) triangle of land between the Huangpu and the Yangtze river.

During the next five years, the city plans to finish a third bridge across the Huangpu, start construction on a port, power plant and water works, open a foreign-invested export processing zone, complete a highway circling the city and begin other infrastructure projects.

Work on a subway to link the two sides of the river will begin

this year. Planners envision more highways, another bridge, a second international airport located on the Yangtze and apartments, hospitals and schools for a population of 1.7 million in Pudong.

They hope that finance and trade centres, high-tech industries and science centres will spring up. They want to modernise older factories in Puxi and move them to Pudong.

All this would take about 40 years. But in the end, the planners say, the project would finally turn Shanghai into a modern, efficient city.

Zhu Rongji, Shanghai's hard-driving and ambitious mayor, said at a news conference yesterday that the city will need \$10 billion for the project in the first decade alone.

The national budget has allocated 6.5 billion yuan (\$1.38 billion) over the next five years, but much of the rest will have to come from foreign investors and the city itself.

The climate for investment, Zhu said, "is unprecedentedly better than at any time in the past and especially better than the time before last June."

He was referring to the military crackdown last June on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing, which has scared away many potential investors and led to a sharp slowing of loans to China by the World Bank and other international lending institutes.

Chinese troops pull out from Lhasa as martial law lifted

BEIJING, May 1. (Reuter): Chinese troops began withdrawing from the centre of the Tibetan capital of Lhasa earlier today as martial law was lifted nearly 14 months after pro-independence protests gripped the Himalayan city.

The official New China News Agency said troops lined up in front of the Jokhang temple — Tibet's most holy Buddhist shrine and the focus of anti-Chinese demonstrations — and were ordered to leave at midnight yesterday.

Tibet's Communist Party secretary Hu Jintao reviewed the troops and "praised the

servicemen for their great contribution to stabilising the situation in Lhasa," the agency said.

Thousands of troops poured into the ancient city on March 7 last year after police failed to control three days of pro-independence demonstrations and rioting.

The Chinese authorities have said fewer than 20 people were killed in the unrest but doctors and foreign reporters said about 50 Tibetans had been shot dead by police before the army moved in.

"We do not give telephone interviews," said a

regional government official contacted in Lhasa from Beijing and asked if all troops had pulled out.

Foreign reporters have been given little access to the remote region of two million people during martial law but the official said applications would be considered.

China's state council (cabinet) said it was lifting martial law because the situation in Lhasa was stable.

"The Tibet autonomous region is an inalienable part of the territory of the People's Republic of China and it is unpopular and doomed to

failure for anyone to... 'independence of Tibet', the official commentary said.

The Dalai Lama said today the lifting of more than a year of martial law in Tibet was just a "public relations exercise" by the Chinese government.

In a statement issued by his office in New Delhi, India, the Dalai Lama said the problems of Tibet will never be resolved "through intimidation and superficial changes." He called for a fundamental change in the attitude of the Chinese communist leadership toward Tibet.

Protests mar Soviet May Day

Fears for communists, cheers for democracy

MOSCOW, May 1. (Agencies): Tens of thousands of protesters, some jeering and booing, marched past President Mikhail Gorbachev on Red Square today, turning the traditional May Day workers' celebration into an attack on Soviet leaders.

Columns of unofficial demonstrators were permitted in Red Square for the first time during what normally is a well-orchestrated march through the square every year on May 1.

In a violent turn for the holiday in Turkey, at least two people were shot and wounded and about 600 were arrested during May Day clashes between demonstrators and police

in Istanbul. The Turkish government had banned May Day marches.

Throughout Eastern Europe, the first May Day since last year's convulsive changes were marked by solidarity with democracy, taunts against old communist-worker alliances and jockeying for voter support in upcoming elections.

About 50,000 people crossed from East to West Berlin to rally outside the Reichstag, the former German Parliament and now the seat of the West Berlin government for the first joint May Day celebration in the divided city since 1946.

Also...

'Growth fund'

WASHINGTON, May 1. (AP): President George Bush announced yesterday a \$200-million "growth fund" to help move Eastern Europe away toward a free-market economy.

The fund includes \$50 million from the US government which is taking the money from its Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), one of its few profit-making agencies. OPIC's earnings are likely from insuring American investments against their property in other countries.

Private US investors are expected to supply the remaining \$150 million. The government corporation will insure them against having their money blocked or confiscated, and also against violence in the countries where the fund will be active.

Agenda set

EAST BERLIN, May 1. (Reuters): Experts from the two Germanys and the four World War Two allies set an agenda yesterday for ministerial talks on German unity, but left it to their foreign ministers to decide when Poland should join in.

A statement read to reporters by the East German delegation said the six powers had covered topics to be discussed by the ministers who hold their first meeting in Bonn next Saturday.

They assessed that the foreign ministers would deal with the arrangements for inviting Poland on matters regarding particularly its borders, it said.

Iliescu denies

BUCHAREST, May 1. (Reuters): Romania's interim government denied yesterday that President Ion Iliescu opposed the execution of deposed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife Elena during last December's revolution.

Deputy Prime Minister Gelu Voicila said in an interview with French television on Sunday that Iliescu found the executions "abominable" and that "he could not reconcile starting everything with a crime."

Baker's message

BUCHAREST, May 1. (Reuters): US Secretary of State James Baker sent a message of friendship to Romania yesterday, the official news agency Rompres reported.

The message was handed to President Ion Iliescu by visiting US envoy Richard Shifter. Iliescu later described the message as "very positive and constructive."

He said Baker had indicated Washington's readiness "to meet us halfway with its political and economic experience."

There were broad opportunities for growing bilateral ties, Iliescu said, adding that he viewed the letter and Shifter's visit as "an expression of the USA's willingness to develop relations with Romania on all planes."

traditionally a time for trade union solidarity, were dominated by flag-waving supporters of Le Pen's National Front, who ranged from Skinheads in leather jackets to formal, middle-aged couples.

Former political prisoners led tens of thousands of people through the Soviet city of Lvov in a May Day parade which turned into a boisterous demonstration for Ukrainian independence.

The crowds proclaimed "glory to the Ukraine" and brandished icons of the Virgin Mary and yellow-and-blue national flags as they marched through the cobble streets of the western Ukrainian city to a rally.

Some marchers carried slogans declaring: "USSR - prison of nations" and denouncing the Ukrainian communist power for the tenacity with which it is clinging to power.

A single red Soviet flag was in evidence.



Tens of thousands of Muscovites parade through the Red Square on May 1. Soviet radicals challenged the Kremlin, chanting support for rebel Lithuania and denouncing seven decades of Communist Party rule. Banner reads: 'Democracy, Perestroika, Glasnost.' (Reuters wirephoto)



Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's wife Raisa shows her grand-daughter the May Day parade. (Reuters wirephoto)



Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev waves to the crowd during a May Day parade on Red Square on May 1. (Reuters wirephoto)



Israel: Police used tear gas to break up an unauthorised May Day march by Palestinians on Tuesday in Arab East Jerusalem and then arrested 36 Arabs, police said.

Before the clash, several hundred people attended a legal indoor May Day rally organised by the General Federation of Trade Unions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Afterward, several dozen Palestinian youths went outside and began marching, some shouting "long live May 1". The demonstrators threw stones at police who told them to disperse. The police then fired tear gas to break up the march and arrested 36 demonstrators, a police spokeswoman said.

In a front-page May Day advertisement in the Jerusalem Post, the generation federation of labour in Israel said workers were engaged in struggles that would "determine the fate of the state" and must work for peace. (UPI)

Turkey: At least two people were shot and wounded and about 600 were arrested during May Day clashes between demonstrators and police in Istanbul on Tuesday.

A woman university student, shot twice near Taksim Square, was reported to be in a serious condition in hospital, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said.

Police being stoned by angry protesters fired shots into the air in another incident and a man was hit in the leg. There was no confirmation of whether either of the two wounded were hit by police fire. (Reuters)

Tunisia: President Zine Al Abidine Ben Ali of Tunisia announced government salary increases of up to 27 per cent spread over three years in a May Day speech on Tuesday.

The increase are the first in basic salaries since January 1989, when the government awarded an across-the-board rise of 15 dinars (\$17) a month.

Civil servants also won 50 per cent increases in their performance bonuses in both 1988 and 1989. Those were each equivalent to up to four per cent of their basic salaries.

Ben Ali told a May Day ceremony the latest increases would be worth 40 to 105 dinars (\$44 to 115) a month by the end of the three-year period. Basic salaries range from 150 to 700 dinars (\$165 to 780) a month.

For those at the bottom of the salary scale, the rises are slightly above the rate of inflation, which ran at about eight per cent a year throughout the late 1980s. (Reuters)

Algeria: Opposition political activists in Algeria staged the podium at a May Day rally and prevented the official trade union leader from delivering his speech.

Britain supports Polish demands on border treaty

WARSAW, May 1. (AP): British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd expressed support yesterday for Poland's demand for a treaty with a united Germany guaranteeing the permanence of its Western border.

"According to us, the essential is that there would be without delay a formal instrument — a treaty — legally binding between Poland and the united Germany," Hurd told reporters after meeting with Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Hurd began three days of meetings in Warsaw with top Polish officials to discuss German unification, European security, economic relations and other issues ahead of a key session of international talks on German unification Saturday.

They said leaders of two newly legal opposition parties, the Liberal Party for Culture and Democracy (RCD) and the far-left Socialist Workers Organisation (OST), broke through a security cordon and jumped onto the podium.

Tayeb Benakhdher, secretary general of the General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA), was unable to address several thousand workers, feminists and journalists at the first May Day rally since Algeria liberalised political life last year.

Benakhdher's leadership is challenged by UGTA members who want the union to be independent of any political party. The UGTA is now closely linked to the National Liberation Front which has monopolised political power for 27 years. (Reuters)

France: Thousands of followers of right-wing extremist Jean-Marie Le Pen held a traditional May Day rally in front of a statue of Joan of Arc on Tuesday on the eve of a national assembly debate on legislation designed to curb racism and anti-Semitism in France.

Le Pen, looking resplendent in a blue double-breasted suit and sporting an artificial sunhat, carried one of his grandchildren in his arms at the head of a procession of some 8,000 sympathisers with the National Front Party who police said marched to the Palais Royal Square by the Tuileries Gardens.

The demonstrators carried placards bearing slogans such as "France for the French" and "Le Pen to the Elysee, Mitterrand to the museum, his wife to the mosque," recalling the former paratrooper's anti-immigration programme. (UPI)

Vietnam: The long-suffering Vietnamese quietly celebrated May Day on Tuesday, 15 years and a day after victory in war gave them a communist regime that promised more than it has delivered.

Still economically isolated by trade sanctions despite its claim to have ended an 11-year military occupation of neighbouring Cambodia, Vietnam suffers grinding poverty.

Worried by the collapse of orthodox communist regimes in Eastern Europe, Vietnam's leaders have so far failed in their efforts to expand significantly the role of free enterprise. (UPI)

Ethiopia: Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam admitted civil war setbacks in a May Day speech on Tuesday and lamented that popular support for his government's cause was sagging.

"The mood of the people is no longer as militant as it once was and the enemies of the country are cashing in on this situation in their bid to break up the country," Mengistu told a rally in Addis Ababa. (Reuters)

Election

Tories brace for a worse

LONDON, May 1. (Reuters): Britain's ruling Conservatives, in their worst political shape since Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher won power in 1979, are braced for a body blow in nationwide local elections on Thursday.

In the biggest electoral test since the 1987 general election, opinion surveys point to heavy Conservative losses, which would put further pressure on Thatcher's leadership.

Every seat on London's local governing bodies and one-third of the rest around the country are at stake, and campaigning has centred on massive voter resentment of a new poll tax on adults to fund local services.

The Conservatives, trailing the opposition Labour Party by about 23 points nationally, are depending 1,500 of the 5,000 seats up for election and are forecast to lose about 400.

Labour stands to gain up to 600 seats, as the minority centrist Liberal and Social Democratic parties have all but collapsed since the same poll was last held in 1986.

Conservatives fear the poll tax could cost them the general election they must call by mid-1992 and strengthen the hand of rivals who want Thatcher to stand down before then.

The tax, introduced on April 1 in England and Wales, varies widely, but the average annual charge of £363 (\$592) is about £100 (\$163) higher than the government expected.

It is also highly unpopular because it hits the poor the hardest and makes the rich generally better off.

A huge anti-poll tax protest in London on March 31 erupted into the worst rioting seen in the city centre for many years. Police battled protesters for six hours as cars were set ablaze and hundreds of shop windows were smashed.

While Thatcher can still produce vintage, combative performances on the world stage, as on Saturday in Dublin when she chided fellow European leaders about political union, the poll tax problems are being depicted as evidence of the government's confusion and uncertainty.

Thatcher easily brushed off a token challenge to her party leadership in December, mounted in protest at her antagonistic policies towards Europe.

But chances of a more serious leadership contest this year have increased as party fortunes slump, with open support from some Conservatives for former defence minister Michael Heseltine — a long-time poll tax opponent — to give the party new direction.

This week it was disclosed that Thatcher had set up a cabinet committee to try to make the tax, once dubbed the flagship of her third term in power, more voter-friendly.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock, whose standing in opinion polls edged ahead of Thatcher recently for the first time, said yesterday: "In the last few days, the government has reached new levels of panic and farce in its approach to the poll tax."

Heart disease

Aim at young in fight: WHO

LUGANO, Switzerland, May 1. (Reuters): Programmes for the prevention of heart disease should be geared to the young, even though most cases occur after middle-age, World Health Organisation (WHO) heart experts said.

The recommendation is based on studies showing that arteriosclerosis, the build-up of fat in arteries, could be found widely among young people in its first stages, they said in a report.

Some 130 heart experts from 29 countries are meeting in this southern Swiss city, under the auspices of WHO.

"Autopsy studies in young men from developed countries show that approximately 70 per cent of them have fatty streaks and fibrous plaques in coronary arteries," the report said.

Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer in both developed and developing countries, the cause of death in 25 per cent of all cases, the report said.

Yeltsin recovering After surgery

BARCELONA, Spain, May 1. (Reuters): Visiting radical Soviet politician Boris Yeltsin is recovering after undergoing emergency back surgery last night, a Barcelona hospital spokeswoman said today.

Yeltsin, who was taken to hospital yesterday after suffering severe back pains, joked with surgeons after they removed a spinal disc hernia in a 90-minute operation, she said.

The maverick Soviet member of parliament was suffering from acute sciatica which temporarily paralysed his left foot.

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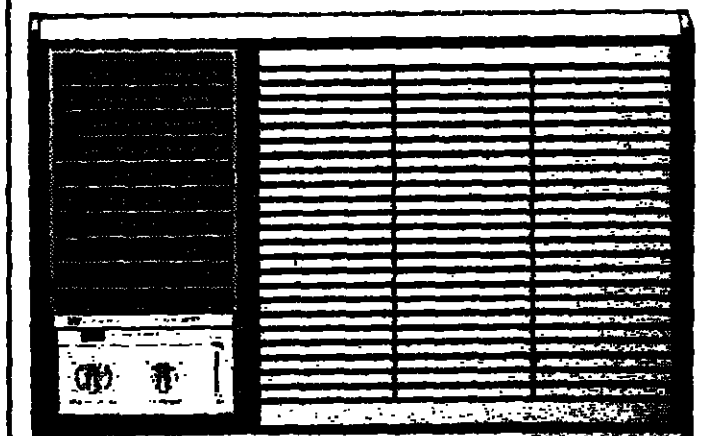
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KEO

Reed celebrates family reunion

End Israel support: Syria

WIESBADEN, West Germany, May 1. (AP): Frank Reed, malnourished but feisty after three and one-half years of harsh captivity in Lebanon, celebrated freedom today with a beer, a large steak, and a long-awaited reunion with his wife and child.

A special State Department team almost immediately began questioning the 57-year-old American educator, hoping for clues about other Westerners still held hostage in Lebanon.

US officials in Washington said they were grateful Reed was free, but they won't be satisfied until the ordeal for all other hostages is over as well.

Congressional leaders gave President George Bush strong support today for his refusal to bargain for the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

Bush met at the White House with Democratic and Republican Leaders one day after Reed was released.



Fili, Frank Reed's wife, celebrates at the news of his release in Malden, Massachusetts. (Reuters wirephoto)

Reed's wife, Fahima, and the couple's 9-year-old son, Tarek, went on a quick shopping tour for new clothes for the ex-hostage at the US Lindsey air base in Wiesbaden, according to a statement by the base.

Reed, who spent much of his captivity blindfolded and uninformed and apparently in the company of other hostages, was also provided a new pair of reading glasses, said the statement.

He underwent initial medical examinations, including X-rays and blood tests, before falling asleep for the afternoon, said military officials.

"He is sleeping and when he awakens he will have support with his family," said the statement.

Reed was the second American hostage to be freed in nine days.

There was no immediate word on a message for US President George Bush from Reed's radical Muslim kidnappers that he purportedly was carrying.

Bush in Washington thanked Syria and Iran for their help in securing the release and said "things seem to be moving," but that there could be no rest "until all hostages are free."

The Iranian newspaper Tehran Times said today that unless Washington answers the latest releases with goodwill gestures, no more Americans will go free.

Reed reached down and touched the ground after arriving at the US Rhein-Main air force base near Frankfurt, blowing kisses to well-wishers and flashing a "V" for victory sign in undisguised elation that he was finally free.

Reed was flown by army helicopter to the US air force hospital in nearby Wiesbaden. Lindsey air base is near the hospital.

Doctors said Reed had lost "significant weight and muscle mass" during his captivity and felt tired and weak.

Syria, after helping win freedom for two American hostages, urged Washington to end unstinting support for Israel but hinted that US policy would not stop its efforts to free captives in Lebanon.

Only hours after Reed left Damascus for West Germany, Syria called on Washington to adopt "a more balanced position" and remove tension in the Middle East.

It criticised US support for what it called Israeli terrorism and said Damascus's policy had always been clear, distinguishing between hostages as individuals and US policy.

The government newspaper Tishreen made no direct comment on a US report, issued just after Reed's handover to US officials, which branded Syria, with Iran, as state supporters of terrorism and was seen as likely to anger the two countries credited with winning Reed's freedom and that of another American.

Tishreen said: "Syria's new efforts which led to the release of hostage Reed confirm that Syria does not base its position on negative reaction but from a firm, principled policy."

There is a mood of "kick them when they're down." One could overdo that. It may put the Iranian position where they can no longer pursue this policy effectively," she said.

She said that while Iran and Syria were set on improving relations with the West and knew they needed the release of the hostages in order to do so, the radical Islamic Shi'ite groups actually holding the

hostages were not interested in the West. "We wish to express our gratitude to all those who through their efforts helped in my release. In particular, we would like to thank the government of Syria for facilitating this release. We would also like to thank the government of Iran for using its influence," Bush said in a written statement.

Iran has played a major role in efforts to free hostages held in Lebanon by Shi'ite Muslim kidnappers, but US officials had until yesterday mostly refused to comment on the Iranian role.

Hunter said there were ways in which the United States could signal its appreciation of the Iranian role in gaining the release of Reed and Pollitt short of dealing with the assets question.

One would be to put pressure on Israel to release some of the men. Shi'ites it is holding in jail.

For Syria, Washington could increase economic ties, indicate that Damascus is a key state in the Middle East peace equation and reiterate its non-recognition of Israeli annexation of the Golan Heights.

Washington praised Syria for helping free American Robert Pollitt eight days ago but did not give Iran much credit then.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater earlier yesterday declined to discuss the extent of Iran's role in the captive situation, saying: "No one knows precisely what motivates the hostage takers."

For Iran, an end to the hostage crisis could mean greater access to Western technology and finance needed for reconstructing its economy after the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

It could also lead to the return of Iranian assets estimated at up to \$12 billion frozen in the United States since 1979.

Iranian hardliners, however, oppose an opening to the West saying it would compromise the Islamic ideals of the late supreme leader, Ayatollah Khomeini.

Hours before Reed's release, a senior Iranian official said Tehran would continue its efforts to release all hostages in Lebanon.

"We...are strongly optimistic that all the Western hostages held in Lebanon will be released," first deputy Foreign Minister Ali Mohammad Beshtari told a news conference in the Gulf Emirate of Abu Dhabi.

Behind-the-scenes negotiations gained momentum over the past two months, when Rafsanjani's brother Mahmoud made several trips to Lebanon to talk to Shi'ite Muslim



Reed stoops and touches the ground with his hand, just after his arrival at Rhein-Main, US airbase early May 1. (Reuters wirephoto)



Frank Reed (left) and daughters Marilyn (center) and Jacqueline (right) celebrate the release of Reed. (Reuters wirephoto)

How to express gratitude US in a delicate spot

WASHINGTON, May 1. (Reuters): The release of two American hostages from Lebanon has presented President George Bush with a delicate dilemma of how to express US gratitude to Syria and Iran, the countries which helped gain the release.

Bush was quick to thank both countries for their efforts. Officials said he was conscious of the need to give their governments enough positive feedback to continue striving for the release of the remaining six US hostages while at the same time avoiding the appearance of rewarding them.

"Quiet thanks but possibly some other steps would be appropriate. We shouldn't assume that the release of hostages will continue automatically," said Alan Taylor, a professor of Middle East Studies at American University.

Unlike his two predecessors, Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan, who became emotionally involved with the hostages to the detriment of their presidency, Bush has distanced himself from the problem, insisting he will not negotiate for the release of the captives.

"I can express a certain gratitude that things seem to be moving. But I don't think any American can totally ignore until the rest are free," Bush said after a White House meeting with former hostage Robert Pollitt, who was released last week.

"We can't... expect normalcy or expect vast improvement until all Americans are free... I just want to conduct the policy of this country in a way to facilitate the continuation of this process, if indeed it is a process," he said.

Shirren Hunter, an analyst specialising in Iran at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said some voices in the administration urged Bush not to make any gestures in return for the release of hostages.

There is a mood of "kick them when they're down." One could overdo that. It may put the Iranian position where they can no longer pursue this policy effectively," she said.

She said that while Iran and Syria were set on improving relations with the West and knew they needed the release of the hostages in order to do so, the radical Islamic Shi'ite groups actually holding the

hostages were not interested in the West. "We wish to express our gratitude to all those who through their efforts helped in my release. In particular, we would like to thank the government of Syria for facilitating this release. We would also like to thank the government of Iran for using its influence," Bush said in a written statement.

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No mercy on extremists

Mubarak vows

CAIRO, Egypt, May 1. (AP): Hosni Mubarak today put the authority of the presidency behind a campaign to suppress religious extremism in which police have shot dead at least 15 Muslim radicals.

He vowed to show no mercy to those who foment trouble between Muslim and Christian Egyptians, "no leniency or dialogue... no appeasement."

Shouts of "Long live the crescent with the cross" greeted the Egyptian president's comments at a May Day gathering of workers and officials. The crescent is an emblem of Islam, the religion of 90 per cent of Egypt's 55 million people.

Mubarak also outlined in his speech a limited privatisation plan. He said the government will sell off small provincial enterprises and joint ventures but retain ownership of major industries.

And on foreign relations, he said that he will visit Syria, China and the Soviet Union this month.

But the first — and clearly the most emphatic — message of the two-hour speech addressed recent sectarian problems in Egypt. It coupled an impassioned plea for unity with a stern warning to Muslim extremists ready to use violence to achieve an Islamic theocracy in Egypt.

In April alone, police seeking out alleged Muslim militants killed at least 15 suspects in southern Egypt, including 13 in an incident on Monday.

Since Jan 1, a policeman and 24 other people have died and more than 60, including nine policemen, have been wounded in communal disturbances in El Minya, Assiut and Fayoum provinces. The trouble included Muslim extremist riots, clashes with police and stoning and arson attacks on churches and other Christian property.

The president's warning was the government's strongest to date but was couched in general terms with no mention of either Muslims or Christians.

"There shall be no leniency or dialogue with terrorism and no appeasement of the advocates of violence and crime..." Mubarak said. "Let everybody know that the power of the state is greater than the power of any terrorism, and that the security of Egypt and all its sons precedes all priorities."

"Mistaken as those whose deviation leads them to imagine that they are capable of imposing on the community by force and threats something the community rejects or that they can become a state within the state."

The recent troubles, while restricted to a relatively small area of southern Egypt, have spawned the greatest amount of "religious violence" in almost a decade. Muslim extremists assassinated Mubarak's predecessor Anwar Sadat in October 1981. The next day began the Islamic militant centre of Assiut an effort to seize the government, which was squelched after scores of policemen and rioters died.

"Firm and decisive measures will have their appropriate timing," Mubarak said. "There is no room for tampering or playing with fire in matters fundamental to the system of government."

On the economy, Mubarak said the privatisation plan will involve more than 4,000 government enterprises in Egypt's 26 provinces and 245 ventures in which the government is a part-owner.

All are relatively small companies dealing in poultry, dairy products, provincial transport and the like. Public money in them total 3.139 billion pounds (\$1.18 billion), Mubarak said.

"We must get rid of these projects... because even those making a profit have chucked up no more than 2 per cent of the invested capital," he said.

But he said the government will maintain control of enterprises such as textiles, iron and steel, aluminium and other strategic industries "including the national airline, Egyptianair."

He said the government owns outright 393 companies, with 31 billion pounds (\$11.65 billion) invested. Of these, 330 are profit-making and 63 lose money.

Egypt's 1971 constitution dictates government ownership of all major means of production. Mubarak made clear his remains a fundamental plank of his economic policy.

Reviewing his foreign policy, Mubarak said he flies to Syria tomorrow for talks with President Hafez Assad, a trip expected to last one day. It caps a year of fence-mending after more than a decade of friction from Syrian opposition to Egypt's unilateral peace with Israel.

Egypt and Syria restored diplomatic ties last December.

"Within a week" of that trip, Mubarak said, he will visit China, then the Soviet Union. It will be his second visit to China since replacing Sadat in 1981 after one in 1984.

China was a major supplier of arms to Egypt after the Soviet Union halted military aid in the mid-1970s and before the United States became Cairo's top armours in the 1980s. Many of the more than 100 warplanes and about 20 naval units, including four submarines, that Egypt bought from China remain in the Egyptian arsenal.

Mubarak's visit to Moscow, scheduled for May 14, will be the first by an Egyptian head of state in 18 years. Bilateral relations soured in 1972 when Sadat expelled 17,000 Soviet military personnel because Moscow refused to supply all the arms he requested.

On the possibility of convening an Arab summit, President Mubarak affirmed that his country is all for an Arab summit, but said that a thoroughly-studied agenda must be prepared for such a gathering before a date is set for it.

Diplomats in Cairo and Damascus say Mubarak's comments to reporters today referred to Shamir's rejection of this week of US proposals that Israeli and Palestinian delegations meet in Cairo for peace talks. The Shamir statements also drew American anger.

"These comments, if they signify anything, signify that peace is not an aim of his," Mubarak said. "We are all for peace, but it looks like Shamir does not value peace."

It would be a shame, he said, if Shamir "intends to follow the same strategy" with a new right-of-centre cabinet he is trying to form. But he refused to pass judgement, saying that would have to wait for until a new Israeli government is formed.

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Blindfolded for nearly 4 years

It was lonely: Reed

DAMASCUS, May 1. (Agencies): Freed US hostage Frank Reed said in Damascus last night that he had been blindfolded 24 hours a day for three and half years.

Appearing on Syrian television, hours after he was released by Muslim kidnappers in Beirut, Reed said he hoped all hostages in Lebanon would soon be free.

"I'm happy to be free and I hope all fellow hostages would be free soon," Reed said.

Reed, 57, was kidnapped in Beirut September 9, 1986.

"I was going... to have lunch with my family, and then I was kidnapped," said the grey-bearded Reed, who was wearing a dark blue suit and white shirt.

The American headmaster said he didn't know why he had been kidnapped.

"Probably the bottom line was that I was a Jew," he said.

"Daddy, it will and will be home very soon," Reed, 57, said in a message to his nine-year-old son Tarek.

The previously unknown organisation of Louie Dawn said on Sunday it was freeing Reed, who was handed to Syrian officials in Beirut at 8.30 pm yesterday and driven swiftly to the Syrian capital.

"I am not prepared to answer questions... simply because there are other hostages there and I do not want to say anything that harm them or their way of life," Reed told a televised news conference.

"We had no information ever given to us about... where we are... we knew nothing... we had no radio... we had no news," he said.

He said he had no idea of the identity of his kidnappers.

"There were no political slogans... it was lonely... it was boring."

"I feel I am well in terms of the basic organs I have in my body... I'd like to say to everyone I want the Lebanese people to understand... the world to understand... that you cannot hold all the Lebanese responsible for what happened to us."

"I want to thank the Syrian government for all their efforts in helping me to become a free man."

The slightly-built American was handed to US Ambassador Edward Dorejian by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara.

Reed, who today left for Wiesbaden, West Germany, said there were times he did not know what month it was.

"I have been blindfolded for 24 hours a day for three and a half years. In fact I feel rather odd right now that my blindfold is not here," said Reed.

He said he had been offered books to read during the early days of his captivity but had refused to accept them "because I did not want to be entertained because I had lost my freedom."

He was kept blindfold from then on.

"I hope God speed all my colleagues who are still hostages."



A patient of the US Air Force hospital in Wiesbaden screams in pain as he welcomes Frank Reed upon his arrival for a medical check-up yesterday. Reed, who was in captivity for 46 months in Beirut, was released on Monday. (Reuters wirephoto)

هَذَا مِنْ أَلْصَافِ

US 'perplexed' by Israel's rejection

A blow to Mideast peace move

WASHINGTON, May 1. (AP): The US government said yesterday it was "perplexed" by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's latest rejection of attempts to start Middle East peace talks.

"Continuing to say no will give us very little to work with and will probably mean losing an important opportunity to move peace forward," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters.

"We've been working so closely with the government of Israel on the peace process," Tutwiler said, reading from a prepared statement.

She said the Israeli government had asked the United States "to find a Palestinian partner from the territories" to help implement Shamir's proposal for elections to produce Palestinian representatives for peace talks.

"We were on the verge of accomplishing that objective," Tutwiler said. "In fact, we felt we were close to producing Palestinians from the territories who were prepared to talk to Israel about the elections in the territories."

Secretary of State James Baker's formula "would have enabled us to do this," the spokeswoman said. "So saying yes... meant saying yes to the government of Israel's plan, yes to Israeli-Palestinian dialogue and yes to peace."

Shamir said in a radio interview on Sunday that "there is something perhaps ridiculous in the slogan of 'Yes to Baker'."

The Baker-Shamir rift broke into the open after the Israeli government collapsed last month in disagreement over a US formula for holding talks with Palestinians.

Still, Tutwiler said, "we hope once the political situation in Israel clarifies we can work with the government of Israel to move ahead."

Vice President Dan Quayle also pledged US perseverance. "We must and we will continue the Arab-Israeli peace process," he said at a seminar on the superpowers' role in the Mideast.

Shamir had proposed last May to hold elections among Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza. The formula the prime minister refused to endorse had been worked out by Baker over months of negotiations with Israel, Egypt and, indirectly, the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Specifically, Shamir objected to having Palestinians who were ousted from the West Bank or who resided in east Jerusalem in the delegation. He is determined to have Israel retain the territory won in 1967 Middle East war.

"No one can expect us to accept every proposal and every idea of the American secretary, be what they may be," Shamir said Sunday.

Avi Pazner, Shamir's media adviser, told Reuters today: "Mr



Bishop Napolitano (bottom right) of the Greek Orthodox Church argues yesterday with Samuel Eviatar, a spokesman of the Jewish settlers, as they are surrounded by journalists outside the disputed Jewish settlement in the Christian quarter of the Old City. (Reuters wirephoto)

Tenancy dispute

Settlers quit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 1. (AP): Armed Jewish settlers honoured a supreme court-ordered deadline today and left a compound they occupied in the Christian quarter of the old walled city of occupied Jerusalem.

After a series of heated arguments between the settlers and clergymen, a six-member church delegation was allowed to inspect the complex to confirm that all the settlers who were supposed to leave had done so.

"They evacuated the settlement, except for 20 people," said Avraham Sochovolsky, an attorney for the Greek Orthodox Church that owns the 72-room complex near the church of the Holy Sepulcher.

The 20 Israelis who stayed after the noon (0900 GMT) deadline are settlers acting as caretakers for the Panama-based SBC company which acquired the lease which the church contends is invalid.

The court allowed them to remain temporarily pending a settlement of the tenancy dispute.

Earlier today, the settlers turned back a half-dozen priests who tried to enter the four-building St John's Hospice to confirm the evacuation claim, and also barred reporters.

Reporters and photographers saw settlers leave the building in small groups over the past few days—apparently to avoid a mass exit that would look like a retreat.

Dan Avi-Yitzhak, a lawyer for the 50 families who took over the building during Easter week celebrations, said the settlers also gave a declaration to police that they had left the building.

Samuel Eviatar, a settler spokesman, read a statement as bells from the church of the Holy Sepulcher and other nearby churches pealed loudly.

"No, there is no feeling of failure," Eviatar insisted.

Shamir did not say no to the Baker proposal. He just said that is not the only way to get to peace.

"I think we could have solved the perplexity of the State Department easily if we would have been asked by them what Mr Shamir said and meant."

"We will work closely together with our American friends after a new government is established in order to find ways to work together to advance peace," Pazner said.

A curfew that confined all of the occupied Gaza Strip's 650,000 Palestinians to their homes to curb unrest over two days of Israeli holidays was lifted

today in all but three trouble spots, the army said.

A nightly curfew remained in effect throughout the Strip.

The army kept a 24-hour curfew on the 50,000 residents of Jabalya refugee camp, Gaza's largest, where troops killed three Palestinians last Thursday in the bloodiest day this year of a 28-month old Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule.

A general and total strike was today observed in all towns, villages and refugee camps of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as part of the wave of resistance against Israeli occupation forces.

US influence in ME declining

Distancing of superpowers may not always be good

WASHINGTON, May 1. (Reuters): The United States is facing a future where its ability to influence the actions of either friends or foes in the Middle East may be sharply curtailed, a senior US official said on Monday.

Richard Haass, special assistant to President George Bush on Near Eastern and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council, told a Washington seminar that the result would be a more dangerous world in which well-armed regional powers would increasingly act independent of superpower restraints.

"The relative distancing of the United States and the Soviet Union from the Middle East may not necessarily always be good. On the contrary unless regional states act with unprecedented vision, the future could be one of more rather than less conflict at the regional level," Haass said.

Even in a region like the Middle East where the US has vital interests, Washington's

ability to control events was already in decline.

"There are simply too many sources of wealth, technology and arms. To stand up and deny military and political support is now less of a threat than it once was," Haass said. Israel and Iraq provide two recent examples of Washington's inability to move events in the direction it desired.

In the case of Israel, months of badgering the government of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to commit itself to a peace dialogue with Palestinians eventually led to his national unity coalition breaking apart.

The United States is now faced with the prospect of a more right-wing government emerging which would step up settlements in the occupied territories and be even less inclined to move towards peace.

Shamir yesterday said there was no way he would accept peace proposals merely because they came from the United States.

"If there is understanding and co-opera-

tion between us and the United States, no one can expect we will accept every proposal or idea of an American secretary of state come what may," he said.

The Bush administration finds itself blocked by Congress from cutting the \$3 billion of annual aid it provides to Israel and has resorted to frequent condemnations of individual Israeli actions which have soured relations between the two countries.

In the case of Iraq, the United States has been equally powerless to influence the policies of a country whose human rights record it regards as "abysmal" and whose pursuit of nuclear weapons it sees as highly dangerous.

Assistant Secretary of State John Killy, testifying before US Congress last week, said cutting off agricultural export guarantees and export credit guarantees worth over \$1 billion a year would hurt the United States more than the Iraqis.

Syria, Iran on US list of terror

WASHINGTON, May 1. (UPI): The State Department's annual report on global terrorism, issued yesterday, listed Iran and Syria among those countries that supported international terrorism.

The report was made public yesterday at about the same time President Bush and Secretary of State James Baker both publicly thanked the governments of Syria and Iran for their help in facilitating the release of hostage Frank Reed, held by an Islamic group in Lebanon for 3-1/2 years.

In addition to Syria and Iran, the State Department listed Cuba, Libya, North Korea and South Yemen for their continuing support of international terrorism. The State Department announced that the United States and South Yemen are resuming diplomatic relations after a lapse of 20 years.

The report to Congress listed 528 international terrorist attacks around the world in 1989, a decrease of 38 per cent from the previous year when there were 826 terrorist incidents.

The Middle East remained the hotbed of terrorism, recording about 190 of the terrorist attacks. But the State Department said the government of Afghanistan stopped its terrorist attacks in Pakistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The report noted that the Palestine Liberation Organisation sharply reduced its terrorist attacks after PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat renounced terrorism in 1988.

The State Department said that Syria and Libya, although they remained on the list of countries accused of supporting terrorism, reduced their support, apparently because they were wary of getting caught.

The State Department report noted that Iranian-sponsored terrorist incidents decreased slightly, from 32 in 1988 to 28 in 1989.

But the report also noted that the Iranian regime continues to call for the death of author Salman Rushdie, and assassinated at least five Iranian dissidents outside the borders of Iran.

The Iranian government also continued to "involve itself, if not organising, Hezbollah," the radical organisation accused of holding most of the American hostages in Lebanon.

On Syria, the State Department report said, "there is no evidence that Syrian officials were involved in planning or executing terrorist attacks outside Lebanon since 1987. Although they continue to provide support and safe haven to a number of groups that engaged in international terrorism."

The report said that Syria continues to support subversion against some of its neighbours, including Turkey, and that Syria allows Iran to send arms via the Damascus airport to terrorist groups in Lebanon, including Hezbollah.

The State Department said that Syria "indicated its willingness to work closely with Western governments to facilitate the release of the remaining hostages in Lebanon."

The report noted that Israel "defended the action as necessary in view of the threat it faces."



May Day at West Bank

An Israeli army captain in the West Bank town of Ramallah aims a US-made M-16 assault rifle at

Palestinians marking May Day with a demonstration against Israeli occupation. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lebanese pound plunges

Christian forces clash

Six-year jail for bus hijacker

BEIRUT, May 1. (AP): Rival Christian forces clashed with mortars and machine-guns in east Beirut today and the nation's currency declined to a 30-month low, reflecting the war-shattered economy.

Police said one person was killed and six were wounded in the exchanges between troops of maverick Gen. Michel Aoun and fighters of Samir Geagea's Lebanese Force militia.

The clashes, which broke out around midnight (2100 GMT), subsided into an intermittent exchange of machine-gun fire by this morning.

The inconclusive three-month fight for dominance of the 310-square-mile (800-square-km) Christian enclave has killed 920 people and wounded 2,448 by police count.

The conflict, the worst battle between Christians in Lebanon's 15-year-old civil strife, has inflicted damage estimated at \$1 billion and obstructed plans by the Syrian-backed government of President Elias Hiriawi to reunite the war-divided capital.

A limited truce called Saturday to allow residents of Kesrouan province north of Beirut to salvage what they can from their homes, caught in vicious shelling duels, was extended to 6 pm today (1500 GMT), the Maronite Catholic church announced.

The Central Bank announced in a currency exchange list published today that the Lebanese pound had deteriorated in the Beirut money market and closed yesterday at 605 to one US dollar.

It was the lowest exchange rate for the Lebanese pound since the summer of 1987 when the pound hit an all-time low of 735 to the dollar before starting to revive.

The Lebanese pound regained

some strength in 1988 and continued its gradual climb in 1989, reaching a rate of 334 to the dollar in February 1989.

However, when Aoun, in March 1989, declared his "war of liberation" against the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon the currency again went on the decline.

The Lebanese pound was once one of the most stable currencies in the Middle East, worth 3.5 to the dollar before the 15-year-old civil war broke out in April 1975.

Hiriawi's government, sworn in Nov 24 a few hours after he was elected president, announced on April 21 a budget for fiscal 1990 with a record deficit of 64.83 per cent.

Expenditure was estimated at \$1 billion and revenues at \$355 million. The government did not say how the

deficit would be covered. However, government officials speaking on condition of anonymity, said Hiriawi depends mainly on negotiating collection of taxes and fees for public services to cover part of the deficit.

Lebanese Parliament Speaker Hussein Al Hussein arrived in Cairo heading a Lebanese parliamentary delegation on a five-day official visit, radio Cairo said.

Lebanese ambassador to Cairo Abdul Rahman Al Solh said that Hussein's talks here will centre on the expected visit of Lebanese Hiriawi to Cairo.

Hiriawi's visit is expected in the second half of this month after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak concludes his visit to the Soviet Union.

'Military will help uprising in Iran'

WASHINGTON, May 1. (Reuters): Reza Pahlavi, the son of the former Shah of Iran, predicted yesterday the Iranian military would be on the side of a popular uprising against the Islamic republic.

"If there is any armed process, the military will be definitely on the side of the people," he said at a news conference at the National Press Club.

Pahlavi, who said he keeps in contact with all factions of the opposition inside and outside of Iran, said he expected the overthrow of the fundamentalist rulers would come through a popular uprising rather than a military coup.

The demonstrations that have taken place this year in Tehran and other cities could be the start of a move to topple the government, he said. "It is beginning to reach the explosive stage," he added.

The Iranian monarchy, stretching back 2,500 years, was overthrown in 1979 when his father, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, left for exile. He died in Egypt in 1980.

Pahlavi was a student in the United States at the time. He now lives in a suburb of Washington.

The former crown prince proclaimed himself Shah of Iran on his father's death. But he said it should be left to the Iranian people to decide whether the government should be a constitutional monarchy or a republic.

He said his role is to unify the various political groups who are seeking to overthrow the Islamic rulers and the government of Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

Western governments are not aware of the drastic shift within Iran against the Islamic leadership, he said.

"What they need most and they need it very soon, are tangible signs that Americans are not giving in to their oppressors and that the US is on the side of freedom," he said.

A close aide of Rafsanjani, Ayatollah Mohajerani, vice-president for legal and parliamentary affairs, came under heavy criticism in Tehran on Sunday after calling for talks with the United States.

Washington cut off relations with Tehran after radical students stormed the American embassy in Tehran in 1979 and took its staff hostage for 444 days.

Pahlavi, called on the United States yesterday to put pressure on the Islamic government in Tehran to ease its repression and allow democratic elections.

Pahlavi says a pro-democracy movement in his homeland may have added to pressure on the government that toppled his father to seek the release of Western hostages.

Pahlavi told a National Press Club gathering yesterday that a democratic movement was launched in Iran in January, and the government is under growing pressure from weeks of civil disturbances that are largely unreported in Western media.

Kabul's peace plan rejected

ISLAMABAD, May 1. (Reuters): Afghan rebels today rejected a peace plan drawn up by the Kabul government as "too little and too late."

Najibullah Laifra, information minister in the rebel government-in-exile, condemned Kabul's plan to lift the nation-wide state of emergency, convene peace talks and reform the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

"These steps are too little and too late for the Afghan people," said Laifra, speaking by telephone from the northwest Pakistani town of Peshawar. "We can't be happy with anything less than the complete removal of the current regime."

Announcing the measures yesterday, the PDPA said the plan would, in at most four months, pave the way for free elections in Afghanistan under the supervision of the United Nations or another neutral body.

Laifra reiterated the rebels' refusal to negotiate while Afghan President Najibullah remained in power and said any peace talks would be "putting old wine in new bottles."

Under the PDPA's three-stage plan the state of emergency, imposed soon after Soviet troops withdrew in February, 1989, would end on May 20.

The Aohr statement said the trials of the coup plotters before military tribunals hurriedly set up by the Bashir Junta, lasted only two hours.

"The organisation views the events of these trials as a grave turning point in Sudan's human rights path and can not even be compared to the worst calamities of the kind in the Arab world..." it said in a statement obtained by Reuters.

Algerian women targeted

Feminists up in arms

BLIDA, Algeria, May 1. (Reuters): They begin to gather after evening prayers — bearded young men in white robes and skullcaps, standing across from the university gates.

Their mission: To prevent women living in the dormitories inside from venturing into the night where, the young men argue, they will surely stumble off the path ordained by God.

Women are often the first victims of such Muslim zealots bent on enforcing their vision of Islamic law on Algeria's streets, and the country's feminists are up in arms.

Recent incidents at the Ben Boulaid City for Girls in Blida, a conservative merchant town 50 km (30 miles) from Algiers, have become a rallying cry for feminist and human rights groups and secular opposition parties.

They see the self-appointed policemen of God as a grave threat to the few civil rights women now enjoy — and a challenge to Algeria's emerging multi-party democracy.

Police have belatedly responded with a series of arrests and women students in Blida said the groups had largely disappeared.

But with the powerful Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) likely to win a big share of votes in the country's first free elections set for municipal and provincial councils in June, civil rights activists say the battle may have just begun.

"Women are the new scapegoats," said Khalida Messaoudi, president of the independent Association for the Triumph of Women's Rights. "We are blamed for every evil."

Aisha, a student in her early 20s, said the young men began gathering last year, stopping women who tried to leave the campus. One student group complained to the provincial governor but got no response, she said.

On April 3, a group of women hailed a taxi outside the gates to attend a rally sponsored by the communist socialist Vanguard Party. The "barbus" (bearded ones) intervened and persuaded the taxi driver not to take them.

Aisha said the women then decided to walk

to the rally but a few hundred metres (yards) down the street they were physically assaulted by a man who carried a whip.

"We are all a bit traumatised now," she said.

After a public outcry, police were stationed in front of the modern concrete gates and the men retreated.

"Our goal is essentially aimed at bringing people who engage in doubtful activities back to the right path," one of the Muslim missionaries, identified only as AA, was quoted as saying by the official daily Al Moudjahid.

"Our programme consists of targeting places of ill repute such as the university dormitory... to intervene in cases that touch Islamic morality."

AA said his group eschewed violence and "pseudo-Muslims" were responsible for the whipping incident. But feminist leaders say there have been too many cases where religious zeal fanned by fundamentalist preachers has spilled over into violence.

Blida, a garrison town, has been linked to religious extremism since the mid-1980s when Mustapha Bouyali led a band of supporters on a "holy war" in the surrounding countryside against the Algerian state.

Tracts signed with such names as "Hezbollah" and "Jihad (holy war) association — Algerian section" appeared in Blida early in the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, threatening women who opposed strict Islamic codes of modesty.

Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche publicly condemned intimidation and violence after meeting with women's groups last week but Messaoudi said they were still waiting for the perpetrators to be brought to justice.

The fundamentalist tide is setting back efforts by feminist groups to overturn the 1984 family law, which they say violates a constitutional ban on sexual discrimination.

The law requires women to obey their husbands and gives men more rights than responsibilities in cases of divorce.

Sudanese women stage first protest at death of coup plotters

CAIRO, May 1. (Reuters): Women relatives of 28 Sudanese officers alleged to have attempted a coup staged the first demonstration in the Sudanese capital yesterday in protest at their execution.

"Police quickly dispersed a small gathering in town yesterday and there were no reports of injuries," a diplomat told Reuters by telephone from Khartoum.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (Mena) said the protesters were exclusively women. The plotters, alleged to have tried to topple the government in order to rescind Islamic

Sharia law, were executed by firing squad last Tuesday, a day after forces loyal to military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir crushed their coup bid.

The execution of the 28, including three major-generals, drew sharp criticism yesterday from the Cairo-based Arab Organisation for Human Rights (Aohr).

Bashir on Sunday linked the coup attempt to southern rebels who have been fighting Khartoum since 1983 in a bid to end what they see as domination by the Arabised Muslim north of the mainly Christian and animist south.

The Sudan Peoples' Liberation Army (SPLA) described the executions as "cold blooded murder."

Mena, reporting from Khartoum, quoted Information Minister Mohammed Khogei Saleh as denying reports that a group of army officers had sent a petition to Bashir demanding that the influence of the National Islamic Front (NIF) Party on his 15-man junta be curbed.

"These are baseless rumours," he told Mena. "Such practices are banned under the military code and violate military discipline."

Sudan's military rulers are widely suspected

of subscribing to a militant brand of Islam and of maintaining links with NIF, banned with all other parties since Bashir's June 30 coup.

The Aohr statement said the trials of the coup plotters before military tribunals hurriedly set up by the Bashir Junta, lasted only two hours.

"The organisation views the events of these trials as a grave turning point in Sudan's human rights path and can not even be compared to the worst calamities of the kind in the Arab world..." it said in a statement obtained by Reuters.

KUWAIT ... GULF

Private companies allowed to finance housing

Projects require over 12,500 hectares of land

By Hussein Salamah

THE Minister of State for Housing Affairs Nasser Al Roudhan has said that Kuwait needs 12,500 hectares of land to build projects until the end of this century that is six times more than the area of Qurain Housing Project.

The National Housing Authority (NHA) is doing its best to meet increasing applications of citizens through its ambitious housing plans the official said and added that Five Year Plan of NHA for 1985/90 provided large number of houses and land allotment to citizens despite limited land available for housing projects in Kuwait. He added that the Kuwaiti population is expected to increase by

450,000 citizens by end of this century comprising about 55,000 families. Houses for these families will need about 7,800 hectares of land in addition to 33,000 present applications submitted to NHA that will need a further 7,440 hectares. This requires a policy based on new measures and specifications for the house, he said.

Decision

Roudhan pointed out that NHA has decided to allow national private companies to finance some housing projects for the authority. This will allow citizens to select the design of their houses among different options. The Higher Housing Council submitted its recommendations in this respect

to the Council of Ministers. Relevant authorities will be asked to make the legal formula of contracts that will be signed by the government represented by NHA and the national private companies, he said.

Preference

He added that citizens who want to make some additions and variations to their houses should pay the difference to contractors or companies they build their houses. The NHA offers houses to citizens in some areas without the need for applicants to wait. They can receive their houses as soon as they submit applications as in houses of Failaka Island and Jahra area. But he added that citizens do not

generally want houses in this area.

He pointed out that NHA determined the area burying garbage and remains at Qurain area when it has plans for new housing projects. The area was specialised to be the site of a public garden. Studies were made by consultative offices to use the area as a park. A committee was set up from the municipality, Environment Protection Council and NHA to plan scientific solutions to get rid of these remains. The authority contracted with American environment experts to solve this problem last November. The experts submitted a scientific report of solutions and required actions to get rid of these remains are being taken, Roudhan said.

Daily lauds earnestness to restore parliament

KUWAIT, May 1, (Kuna): A local paper today praised the government's earnestness in restoring parliamentary life and creating the constitutional body that will exercise political, financial and legislative supervision in the country.

Al Anba newspaper, commenting editorially on the start yesterday of registration of candidates for membership of the National Council, said beginning the process of general elections, scheduled for next June 10, is enough evidence of the country's leadership wish to allow the people to choose freely their representatives and to have a say in decision-making.

The paper emphasised that Kuwait's leadership has delivered its promise to find a suitable formula for future political work in the country and has kept intact the former geographic distribution of electoral constituencies, contrary to recent rumours about changes intended by the government.

"The next few days," it said, "will definitely prove sincerity of the Crown Prince's assertions that the constitution would not be amended. This is truly so because the (interim) National Council have no power to do so in the first place."

Recalling that general elections in Kuwait, which used to be organised once every four years, had been an example of fairness and freedom, away from any government influence, Al Anba hoped the next election would be similarly clean and would select the rightful persons.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier receives

KUWAIT, May 1, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah yesterday received at his diwan in Bayan Palace Minister of State for Municipal Affairs Mohammad Abdul Mohsin Al Refai, Minister of Oil Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, Hawalli governor Abdul Latif Mohammad Al Barges and Al Ahmadi Governor Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem.

HH the Crown Prince and Premier also received a number of Kuwaiti citizens at the public diwan.

Postal Union

KUWAIT, May 1, (Kuna): Kuwait will officially participate in the executive council meetings of the International Postal Union (IPU) to be held in Bern, Switzerland from May 8 to 10.

Communications Assistant Secretary for Postal Affairs Nasser Al Jrali, who will head Kuwait's delegation to the meetings, told Kuna today the council will discuss a number of issues and reports concerning IPU's various activities, internal regulations and postal system and services.

Pakistan's minister

KUWAIT, May 1, (Kuna): Pakistan's Foreign Minister Saheb Zada Yaqub Khan made a brief stopover here yesterday, on his way home from New York, where he attended the 18th extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly.

He was greeted and seen off by deputy director of the Asia and Africa department at the foreign ministry Ibrahim Al Muhana and Pakistan's ambassador to Kuwait and embassy staff.

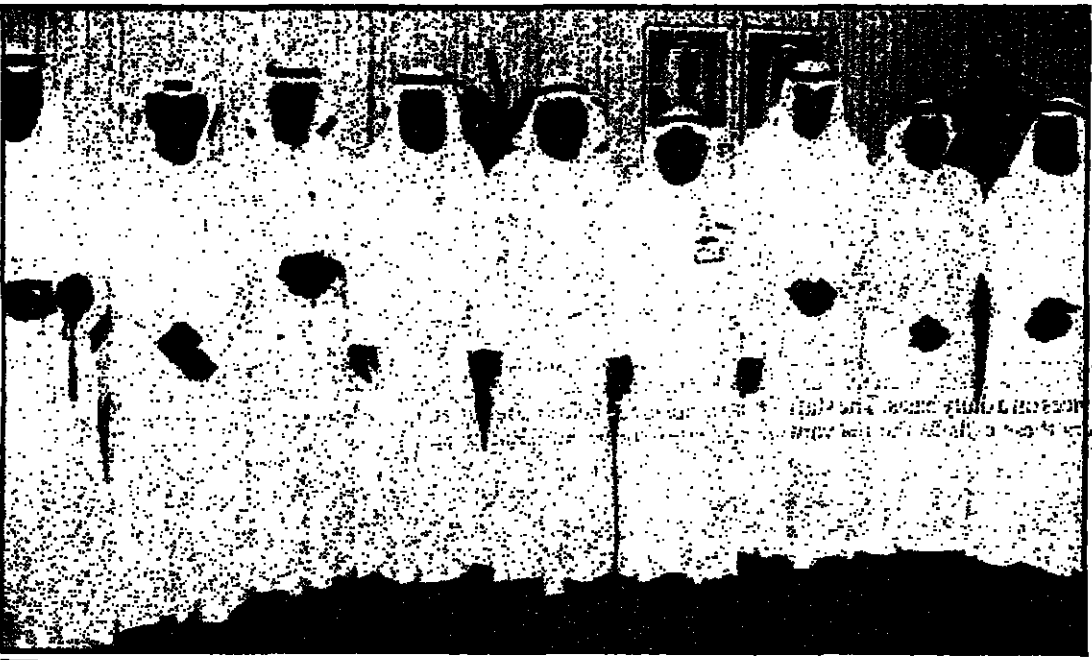
CSC committee

IT was reported yesterday that Civil Service Council set up a committee under chairmanship of the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs Dhari Al Othman to reconsider the employment systems and legislations that have been in effect from 1979. The committee will start working within the coming few days to review notices and comments of ministries and government establishments that appeared as the system of promotion according to seniority.



Rqobah receives MEW staff

Kuwait's Minister of Electricity and Water Dr Humoud Abdullah Al Rqobah and the ministry's undersecretary Abdullah Mohammed Al Munayes and assistant undersecretaries received employees of the ministry, on the occasion of the Eid Al Fitr at the ministry's diwan.



Tourism sector

Dubai to mount major promotion in Hannover

THE DUBAI Commerce and Tourism Promotion Board and Jebel Ali Free Zone Authority (Jafza) have joined forces to mount a major Dubai promotion at the forthcoming Hannover Fair in West Germany.

This will be the fourth consecutive year that Jafza has taken part in what is reputed to be the world's largest trade fair which runs from May 2-9. Investment in the Free Zone will continue to be major theme at this year's event, but the participation of the promotion board will broaden the Dubai message to cover all aspects of business in the emirate. According to the organisers, the Hannover Fair has a total of some 6,000 exhibitors and is expected to attract 500,000 visitors from around the world, making it an excellent showcase for Dubai's business interests.

Ideal

The Dubai delegation in Hannover will be led by Sultan Bin Sulayem, who is both chairman of Jafza and a member of the promotion board. "We will be emphasising Dubai's attractions as a place of oppor-

tunity for European companies, whether it be for industrial investment, trade or as an ideal location for regional offices or distribution centres," he said.

Message

"Dubai has a very strong case to present. But we will have to work hard to put our message across. This is because current developments in Eastern Europe and the advent of the single market in 1992 seems to have focused attention on prospects in that part of the world," noted Bin Sulayem. "We have already mailed a large number of potential investors and expect to get down to substantive business discussions at the fair. We will also be concentrating on media relations to publicise Dubai's attractions, and will be holding a press conference in Hannover."

Visitors to the stand will have access to wide range of information on Dubai's business potential in a wide range of industries. The promotion board has assembled promotional literature from some 35 local organisations for distribution to interested parties.

10th anniversary of Mefex

MEFEX is recognised as the leading event for the food and equipment industry in the Gulf region. This year saw the 10th anniversary of Mefex — the first being held in 1980, it is a bi-annual event. Mefex 90, a four-day, trade-only event was opened by Habib Kassim, Bahrain's minister of commerce and agriculture in Feb 1990.

Total visitor attendance for Mefex 90 was 4,554 of which 1,739 (38 per cent) came from overseas. A strict entrance policy ensured that the exhibition was attended by bona fide trade visitors only. This is confirmed by information gained from exhibitor questionnaires.

Attendance at Mefex 88 was 3,953 so Mefex 90 attracted 15 per cent more visitors than the previous exhibition. Of more importance is the statistic that Mefex 90 attracted 15 per cent more overseas

visitors than Mefex 88 with significantly higher representation from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar.

Total area occupied — 2,308 sq. m.

Number of participants — 372

Number of countries represented — 34

Number of national groups — 10

National Groups at Mefex 90 were: the United Kingdom, Federal Republic of Germany, Egypt, the USA, Denmark, Austria, Canada, Australia, the Netherlands and India.

The International Salon Culinaire competition sponsored by the Australian Meat and Livestock Corporation is now recognised as the most prestigious and leading event of its kind in the region. The competition which comprised 19 different categories of cuisine, attracted 246 entries

from 26 hotels, bakeries and restaurants from the Gulf region.

As the food industry in the Gulf region has developed the demand for processing and packaging equipment has increased. This was reflected in the increase in such manufacturers exhibiting in Mefex 90. This trend is expected to continue with many more exhibitors from the food processing, packaging and catering industries taking part at Mefex 92.

Mefex 92 will take place at the new Bahrain International Exhibition Centre which is a modern, air-conditioned purpose-built exhibition centre without columns and with good access and ample car parking. The 7th Middle East Food and Equipment Show Incorporating Food Processing and Packaging Equipment will be held on Feb 15 - 18 1992.

Jewish emigration

Soviets called to stem flow

KUWAIT, May 1, (Kuna): A Kuwait paper today called on the Soviet Union to follow its words with deeds and take measures to stem the flow of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Occupied Palestine.

The conservative daily, made the call in the course of an editorial comment today on results of the two-day visit to the Soviet Union paid by Syrian President Hafez Assad which concluded Sunday.

"Soviet leader (Mikhail) Gorbachev's statements equating rights of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Occupied Palestine to the Palestinian people's right to statehood and self-determination on their national soil should be followed by concrete and practical steps," the paper opined.

Otherwise, it said Soviet talks about 'balanced interests' in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict would be considered as Soviet appeasement, particularly ahead of the planned extraordinary Arab Summit, tentatively set for mid-May in Baghdad.

The paper argued it was neither reasonable nor comprehensible that Moscow, a long-tested ally of the Arab nation, accepts, under US pressure, that the tide of Jewish immigration always heads to Occupied Palestine, as sole destination, to the alarm and dismay of Arab states.

It also made note of the haste in which former East European satellite states are flocking to recognize Israel and extend a helping hand to Tel Aviv, including agreement to take guilt and pay compensations for world War II crimes against the Jews.

In comparison, the daily highlighted Sri Lanka's recent decision to sever ties with Israel until it recognises Palestinian legitimate rights and vacates occupied Arab lands and appreciated and saluted Colombo's supportive stance.

"By insisting on a Soviet firm stand," the paper concluded, "the Arabs are maintaining the Soviet Union's international posture as a superpower...and not as a scarecrow."

Enhance profession, dentists requested

Dr ZUHAIL Al Nassar, a dental specialist has called on the Kuwaiti Dentists Association to shoulder its responsibilities in the field of enhancing the organisation of the dental profession with a view to keep abreast with other medical societies in the country.

He commented that the association concentrates on social activities and organising some scientific lectures as compared to its counterparts in the world who concentrate on enhancing scientific and technical knowhow of its members.

He called on the association to defend the rights and vocational interests and said that the dental profession deprives a number of Kuwaiti dentists to work in the private sector. He suggested that the association should actively contribute to setting up the private clinic law and play its role in protecting the interests of Kuwaiti dentists.

Speaking of dental services, he said that each dentist daily receives on an average between 20-50 patients and said that this is detrimental to the profession. An average of 15 patients per day should be the maximum patients, he said.

Nassar called on the Ministry of Public Health to review its policy towards this profession and should upgrade the level of services by attracting top professionals by setting up training courses for upcoming and promising dentists.

US ties with Gulf will increase: Gnehm

Oil dependence growing

AS the United States increases its dependence on Arabian Gulf oil in the next decade, its relations with that region will grow in importance, Edward Gnehm, deputy assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, said recently.

Increasing dependence on oil will result in a "new interdependence between the United States and the Gulf," Gnehm said during a luncheon address to a conference on the Gulf sponsored by the Middle East Institute.

The United States must improve economic ties with the Arabian Gulf as its dependence on oil from the region grows, Gnehm said. The United States must do a "better job in promoting US sales to and investment in the region. And we need to promote US-GCC economic dialogue," he said.

The "economic aspect" of the US-GCC relationship is a "cause for concern," said Gnehm. He noted that Great Britain has surpassed the United States as Saudi Arabia's number one trading partner. The United States must do what it can "to reverse this trend," he stressed.

Gnehm noted Iraq's recent efforts to acquire biological, chemical and nuclear weapons. He said these actions "have raised serious questions in our minds about Iraq's intentions."

The United States "would like to see the government of Iraq take early action to allay the concerns we have about its recent behaviour, so that our two countries can begin to move our relationship forward, once again," Gnehm said.

On the issue of improving relations with Iran, Gnehm said "the choice for better relations is Iran's to make." The United States "will respond to positive changes in Iran's behaviour. We will react appropriately to hostile Iranian acts," he stated.

"An improvement in US-Iranian relations will not be possible until Iran acts to free US hostages in Lebanon and end its support for terrorism," Gnehm said.

The following is the text of Gnehm's prepared remarks: "REMARKABLE changes have been sweeping the world in the last year. We have seen peaceful revolutions against the oppressive regimes of Eastern Europe, the gathering of pro-democracy movements in Nepal and Mongolia, the destruction of the Berlin Wall, and the defeat of the Nicaraguan Sandinistas in free elections.

But, it seems, the more things change everywhere else, the more they stay the same in the Middle East. The bitter enmities and political rivalries that have marked the region for decades seem impervious to the shock waves felt elsewhere. While on a global level one might say that tensions are at their lowest ebb in decades, the potential for tragic miscalculations and violent confrontations in the Middle East remain deeply troubling to all of us who keep a close watch on the region.

In the Arabian Gulf, we have faced severe challenges in the past — but we have met them in ways which give us confidence for the future. As a result, the prospects in the Gulf in the decade to come are as favourable for American interests as they have been for a generation.

Those vital interests haven't changed. They have been reaffirmed by successive presidents since 1979:

— the free flow of Arabian Gulf oil.

— the security of friendly states in the area from external threat.

This administration, like its predecessors, remains committed to a policy of defending these vital interests by any means necessary, including the use of military force. Before we look forward, a brief look at the past is in order. Ten years ago, our Arabian Gulf policy lay in ruins. The Iranian Revolution had swept the Shah from power and shattered the "twin pillars" security structure that undergirded our Arabian Gulf strategy for a decade, a war between Iraq and Iran threatened the stability of the entire region, and a rising tide of Islamic militancy, dedicated to the eradication of western influence in the area, seemed to be gathering strength. Our key interests in the Arabian Gulf were under attack as never before.

Today, after weathering a very difficult period, the situation is considerably different:

— Active hostilities between Iran and Iraq have ended. Despite the existence of an uneasy, no-war, no-peace situation, the cease-fire is solid and both sides are committed to diplomatic efforts to resolve this conflict.

— The free flow of oil continues through the Strait of Hormuz and via newly constructed pipelines.

— Fundamentalist revolutions have failed to spread throughout the Arabian Gulf.

— Our credibility with our friends in the area is stronger than ever, a direct result of our demonstrated determination to defend our interests in the Arabian Gulf.

— The potential military threat from the Soviet Union has clearly diminished.

— The Iranian revolution has bogged down in its own excesses, economic failures, and military defeat. Its relative power in the region has declined. Iran is unlikely to reconstitute itself as a formidable military force — and a military threat — in the Arabian Gulf for at least several years. While there is much about Iranian behaviour that is troubling and irresponsible, Iran's leaders seem aware of the need to improve their relations with the west if they hope to climb out of the hole they have dug for themselves.

Dependence

While the Arabian Gulf at the dawn of the nineties appears a safer place, we cannot afford to become too complacent. Over time, the region will become even more important to the United States.

The hard fact is that as a nation we are becoming more and more dependent on imported petroleum, particularly from the Arabian Gulf, a result of rising energy needs and the inevitable decline of domestic US sources. Our annual net imports of oil have risen 66 percent since 1983, rising 10 percent last year alone. Since 1985, 53 percent of our imports of crude oil and petroleum products has come from the Arabian Gulf. In other words, a third of a Gulf's output increase since 1985 has resulted from rising US import needs. In the years to come, this trend is likely to continue. Over the next 5-10 years, the Arabian Gulf's share of total world crude oil production may rise to between 45 and 55 percent, up from 25 percent today.

This means new interdependence between the US and the Arabian Gulf, and new challenges for our interest. As the United States buys more of its oil from producers in the Arabian Gulf, we will need to engage these states in a network of mutually beneficial economic ties. In brief, we will need to work to encourage oil-rich countries to invest in downstream petroleum, banking and other economic activities in the United States. We must do a better job in promoting US sales to and investment in the region. And we need to promote US-GCC economic dialogue.

Economics

The economic aspect of our relationship with the GCC states is a cause for concern. The US market share of exports has been steadily falling in the Arabian Gulf as exchange rates and political controversies over arms sales have taken their toll. In Saudi Arabia, for example, the United Kingdom recently passed the US as the number one exporter, increasing sales to the Kingdom 44 per cent since 1982 to \$3,840 million in 1989. In the same period, US exports have fallen more than 57 per cent to \$3,610 million today. For the first time ever, British expatriates now outnumber US expatriates in that country.

Should this trend continue, we can expect increasing losses to US exporters at a time when energy prices, which many expect to rise throughout the decade, will ensure the Arabian Gulf remains one of the world's lucrative markets. Already we see Arabian Gulf states shifting their supplier preferences and technical orientation away from the United States toward third countries, costing us both a valuable export market and considerable political influence. We must do what we can now to reverse this trend.

Relations

In terms of regional security, we will work to maintain, and in some cases enhance, our military co-operation with our friends in the region. We will continue to support the sale of weapons to the area's moderate states to meet their legitimate defensive needs. Finally, as the president has made clear, we are deeply concerned about the proliferation of nuclear weapons, chemical and biological weapons, and ballistic missiles. The United States will work closely both with the countries of the region and multilaterally to prevent the spread of these weapons of mass destruction. This brings us to the topical issue of Iraq, which has been on

all of our minds lately. Last October, when Foreign Minister Aziz met Secretary Baker, our two countries committed ourselves to work for an improved long-term relationship, both believed there was reason to continue and where possible expand cooperation that had begun to develop between us.

Continued Iraqi efforts to develop nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons capabilities have heightened regional tensions as did President Saddam Hussein's April 1 recent statement threatening the retaliatory use of chemical weapons against Israel. Moreover, the involvement of a member of Iraq's mission to the UN in an alleged murder-for-hire conspiracy is profoundly distressing. In addition, the smuggling of military capacitors with nuclear weapons applications not only violated our laws but called into question Iraq's willingness to live up to its commitments under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

Iraq is an important country, with an important role to play in the region. We hope this role will be a constructive one. We would like to see the government of Iraq take early action to allay the concerns we have about its recent behaviour, so that our two countries can begin to move our relationship forward once again.

But let me be very clear. Recent Iraqi actions have raised serious questions in our minds about Iraq's intentions. Iraq cannot flout our laws and act in ways which call its international commitments into question with impunity.

With the GCC, we have major commercial interests, a long history of political and economic co-operation, and a shared commitment to a free market economy. The GCC states also share our interest in regional stability; we have often co-operated on such important issues as Lebanon and freedom of navigation in the Arabian Gulf. The special American relationship with Saudi Arabia is as necessary today as it has ever been in the past. This administration remains committed to it.

With many of the GCC states we have built security relationships over a number of years, relationships which grew closer during the last two years of the Iran-Iraq war. They will be crucial to our ability to project forces into the region in the future. We will also maintain our traditional naval presence in the Arabian Gulf, at a size commensurate with the level of the threat. We have had such a presence for over forty years.

Policies

Finally, we come to Iran. Over the last decade, our relations with the Islamic Republic have been characterised by a high level of hostility and occasional violence. Unquestionably, we would be better off with a less hostile Iran willing to act responsibly within the international system and to develop a more normal relationship with the US.

Nevertheless, it is clear that our interests in the Arabian Gulf can be protected without such a relationship. The choice is fundamentally Iran's to make, we will not reward Iran for taking actions which are demonstrably in its own interests, but we are prepared to deal with the Islamic Republic without nostalgia for the past.

My own view is that our policy works best when it keeps to a steady course firmly based on reciprocity. We will respond to positive changes in Iran's behaviour. We will react appropriately to hostile Iranian acts. The president and others in the administration have publicly and privately outlined our basic approach many times:

— We have no quarrel with Iran's form of government, and we do not seek to overthrow it. As President Bush has said, "We have no historical feud with Iran, and we have no desire to intervene in their internal affairs."

— We remain willing to talk directly to authorised Iranian government officials, and in the meantime will keep our lines of communication open through reliable third parties. But an improvement in US-Iranian relations will not be possible until Iran acts to free US hostages in Lebanon and end its support for terrorism.

Unfortunately, we have nothing to indicate Iran has abandoned its support for terrorism following the death of Khomeini, as regards the hostages, while there have been many positive-sounding statements generated recently in Tehran, none so far has resulted in a hostage release. On this score, actions are important, not words.

KACCH to hold charity gala May 5

'Children for children' theme

KUWAIT Association for the Care of Children in Hospital (KACCH) is a voluntary organisation which promotes play for children in hospital. Although enjoying the support of the Ministry of Health and the medical profession its funding depends upon the generosity of institutions and private individuals.

One of KACCH's major projects for

1990 is the establishment of a play programme at the Kuwait Cancer Control Centre along the lines of the scheme already running at the Amiri Hospital.

In order to raise funds for this new play programme, KACCH has organised a charity gala dinner to be held on Saturday, May 5 in the presence of His Excellency the Minister of Health, Dr

Abdulrazzak Al Yousef, at 7.30 pm in the Grand Ballroom of the Sheraton Hotel.

Theme

The theme of the gala dinner will be Children for Children and during the evening the New English School's Junior Choir will entertain guests with a short repertoire of songs and the Kuwait

School of Contemporary Dance will perform "The Hunting of the Snark" a fantasy ballet based on the nonsense poem by Lewis Carroll.

Tickets for this charity gala dinner are on sale now at KD10 per person, available from the KACCH office, Amiri Hospital, telephone 2464723 or 5337571 or 2435996.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Message received

KUWAIT, May 1, (Kuna): HH the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah today received a letter from the Mauritanian president and head of the military committee for national salvation Maouiya Ould Sid Ahmed Ould Taya.

The letter was conveyed to HH the Amir by the Mauritanian Ambassador to Kuwait, Mohammed Ould Didi.

Kuwait News Agency (Kuna)

has learnt that the letter tackles the Mauritanian-Senegalese dispute since HH the Amir is the current president of the fifth session of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Art exhibition

KUWAIT, May 1, (Kuna): Advisor at the Amiri Diwan Abdul Aziz Hussein will inaugurate next Saturday the exhibition of the artist Hamid Mustapha.

The exhibition, which is the first for Mustapha, will take place at the Free Atelier on Arabian Gulf Street and features a number of glass paintings, making Mustapha the first Kuwaiti artist to explore this branch of art.

Handicrafts exhibit

KUWAIT, May 1, (Kuna): Minister of Education Anwar Abdullah Al Nouri opened today the permanent exhibition for selling student's handicraft articles organised by the ministry at its capital premises in Mirgab.

In a press statement after the opening Nouri said that the purpose of the exhibition is to present student handicraft articles as well as products in interior decoration and carpentry.

The minister pointed out that the products carry symbolic prices in order to support the school supplies with raw materials used by the students and to encourage those who are talented.

The opening ceremony was attended by the undersecretary of the ministry of education Abdulrahman Al Khodari as well as a number of top officials.

Iftar charity

KUWAIT, May 1, (Kuna): Chairman of the Islamic Heritage Revival Society Khaled Sultan Al Issa has announced that more than 400,000 iftar 'breakfast' meals were offered by the society to the poor in Asian and African countries during the recent Holy Month of Ramadan.

He said the project of providing iftar meals outside Kuwait, now in its third year, is considered one of the vital projects supervised by the society.

Issa hailed the role of the public in ensuring the project's success this year, noting the increasing number of donors.

He added that 25 states had benefited from the project, eight of them were Arab states, indicating that the Palestinian camps in Jordan and inside Occupied Palestine had been covered by the project, in addition to the Afghan refugee camps in the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

Issa stressed the importance of continuing support for charitable projects to benefit the poor in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

UAE graduates

ALAIN, UAE, May 1, (Kuna): UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan today patronised the graduation ceremony of the 9th student batch of UAE university, which grouped 1289 graduates.

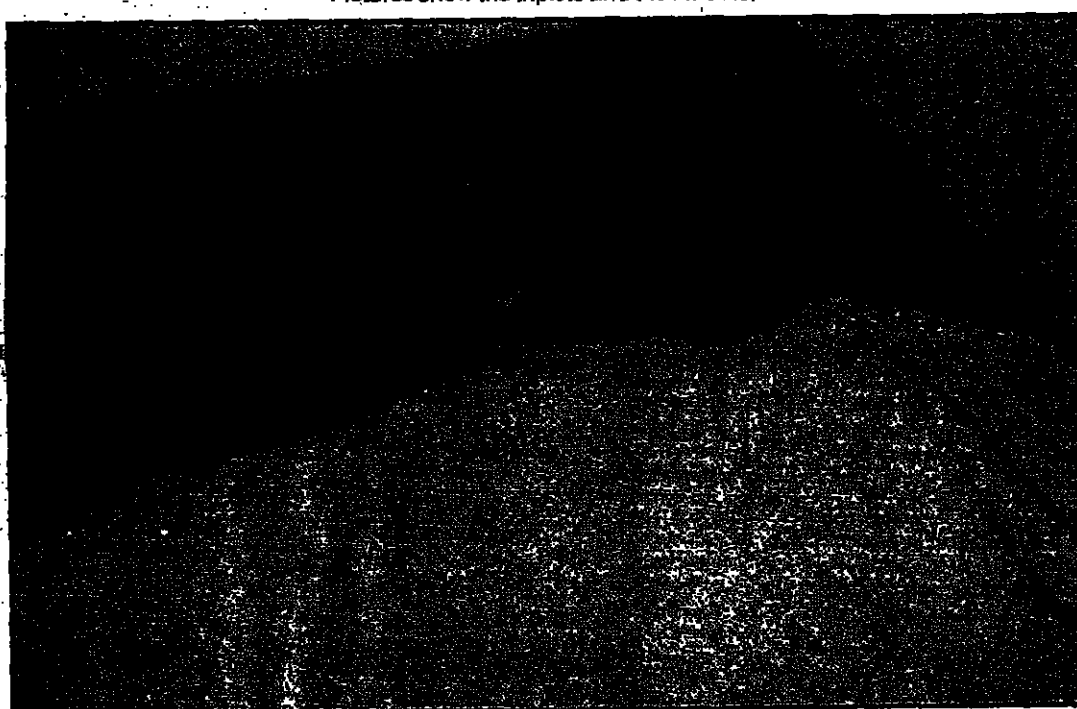
Sheikh Zayed, in an address, spoke of the comprehensive development the university is witnessing and the basic university programme which will be executed as of next academic year to upgrade the students capabilities.

Sheikh Zayed expressed hope that a new University City would be established soon in Al Ain.



Triplets at Addan

A 23-year-old Pakistani lady Tanzil Mohammed Aslam gave birth to triplets: two males and a female at Addan Hospital last Monday. The father of the new born babies works as a mechanic in Fahahel Industrial Area. The babies were born by Caesarean section. The mother said that she named her babies as Hassan, Omar and Tanwila. The three babies were in good health. The first weighs 2,310 grammes, second 2,330 grammes and female weighed 2,060 grammes at the time of delivery. The woman already has a two year old boy. Pictures show the triplets and their mother.



US-South Yemen resume relations after 21-year break

WASHINGTON, May 1, (AP): The United States and the leftist government of South Yemen resumed diplomatic relations yesterday after a break of nearly 21 years.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler expressed satisfaction over the move and said the United States seeks "a useful productive relationship."

South Yemen has had close ties with the Soviet Union and is the only Arab nation that has pursued Marxist policies. It also has been accused by the United States of engaging in state-sponsored terrorism.

Responding to questions, Ms Tutwiler said South Yemen has been intent on maintaining peaceful relations with its Arabian peninsula neighbours and has begun liberalising its economy and its political system.

Its record on terrorism also has improved, she said.

"We hope to see continued good relations among the countries in that area contributing to regional stability and further economic progress," she said.

South Yemen continues to be on a US list of countries that engage in international terrorism because terrorist organisations have been allowed to maintain

facilities there and South Yemeni officials have provided refuge for airline hijackers, she said.

A new State Department report on terrorism, made public yesterday, asserts that South Yemen has considerably reduced its support for terrorism since the early 1980s. No terrorist incidents were traced to South Yemen by the State Department last year.

Ms Tutwiler said the issue of diplomatic relations is entirely separate from a country's record on terrorism.

Talks on normalising relations have been held in recent months by US and South Yemen officials based at the United Nations.

South Yemen broke diplomatic relations with Washington in 1969, alleging US involvement in subversive activities. A decade ago, the United States provided military aid to North Yemen at a time of military conflict between the two Arabian peninsula neighbours.

Lately, however, the two Yemens have been making plans for a merger and have set a Nov 30 target date. In addition, the Soviet Union has been reducing its once extensive ties to South Yemen.

Monday's announcement trims by one the small number of

countries world-wide with which the United States does not have diplomatic relations. Last week, the State Department said it was ready to pursue normal relations with Albania with a break of more than 50 years.

South Yemen — known formally as the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen — broke relations with the United States in October 1969, accusing the United States of meddling in its internal affairs. The restoration of relations comes at a time when South Yemen and non-Marxist North Yemen are talking of the possibility of political and economic reunification.

It also comes at a time when South Yemen is moving toward some economic reforms and a return to constitutional government.

The country's hard-line Marxist president, Ali Nasir Muhammad Al Hasani, was overthrown in a violent coup in 1986. The new government has conducted a purge of Hasani's backers, causing further turmoil.

The State Department estimates that 25 per cent of the country's 2.3 million people have fled to North Yemen as refugees.

Although the State Department's annual report on human rights detected some modest

improvements last year, it said, "the human rights situation overall remains grim, with many rights, such as freedom of speech, association and the press sharply curtailed."

The report also said that the South Yemeni government continues to arbitrarily arrest citizens, deny them the right of a fair trial, and to abuse prisoners. South Yemen had been a close ally of the Soviet Union, but as the Soviets began to reform its internal structure, it also cut back financial and military support for the South Yemeni government.

Meanwhile South Yemen's Foreign Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dale expressed satisfaction yesterday at the announcement of resuming relations between his country and the US and hoped that the move would open new spheres of co-operation and understanding.

In a telephone conversation with VOA, Dale said that Aden was completely pleased with the guidelines agreed upon by both sides concerning the restoration of diplomatic ties, severed in 1968.

The resumption of relations between Washington and Aden was made official earlier in statements issued simultaneously in both capitals.

102 register for polls

(Continued from Page 1)

Yousef Abdulnabi Behbehani
Ahmed Salem Al Azemi
Moubarak Hamad Al Azemi

2nd constituency

— Mirgab

Ali Ibrahim Al Mawash
Hazem Othman Al Jeeran

3rd constituency

— Qibla

Zaher Abdul Mohsen Al Sharhan

4th constituency — Da'ya

Adnan Ahmed Khalaf
Mohamed Ameen Al Mutawa
Mohamed Naser Al Rasheed

5th constituency

— Qadisiya

Yousef Ahmed Al Raqum
Bassam Fahed Al Mutawa
Adnan Ismael Behbehani
Ahmed Ismael Behbehani

7th constituency

— Kaifan

Waleed Abdul Razzaq Al Sabaj
Mohamed Moubarak Al Faraj
Qoutaiba Mohamed Al Tarawia

8th constituency

— Hawalli

Mohamed Abdullah Al Hajiri
Fahed Ayed Al Azzam

10th constituency

— Adailiya

Abdul Wahed Abdul Khaliq Al Faraj
Mahmoud Mal Allah Mal Allah
Faisal Saoud Al Sultan

11th constituency

— Khaldiya

Mohamed Rashed Al Omar

12th constituency

— Salmiya

Yousef Khalaf Al Hamad
Moubarak Eid Al Azemi
Dirgham Abdullah Al Matrouk
Marzouq Mifreh Al Amerah

13th constituency

— Rumaithiya

Nabeel Abdul Hadi Al Kharibah
Ali Ahmed Faras
Yaqoub Kambur Haji Abdulla
Abdul Hameed Abbas Dashti

14th constituency

— Abraq Khaitan

Khalid Hussain Al Mansour
Hmoud Naser Al Jabri

15th constituency

— Farwaniya

Fayez Hamed Al Rasheed
Moutari Mijbil Al Rasheed
Mohamed Naser Al Rasheed
Mohamed Mijbil Al Rasheed
Salem Sulaiman Rouwashid
Fahed Fahad Al Saiban
Saoud Rashid Al Rshaidi
Digman Habab Al Rshaidi

16th constituency

— Omariya

Mbarak Bnayah Al Khirinj
Sahab Wasil Allah Al Mutari
Mnahi Mikhlif Al Daihani

17th constituency

— Jleeb Al Shoyoukh

Amish Mnahi Al Daihani
Mohamed Hmoud Abou Shibah
Haza' Abdullah Al Mutari
Fahed Moubarak Al Masib
Madi Dhalees Al Mutari
Moutak Mifil Al Mutari
Aloush Lafi Al Mutari

18th constituency

— Sulabikhat

Jaza' Hamed Al Inizi

19th constituency

— New Jahra

Matar Toulaihan Al Shimiri
Naser Eid Al Azemi
Moutak Mohamed Al Shailmi
Saleh Nazer Al Inizi
Fahed Naser Al Thufiri
Bander Sou'an Al Inizi

20th constituency

— Jahra

Hamed Turki Al Shimiri

21st constituency

— Ahmadi

Abdullah Ayed Al Otaibi
Ali Bjad Al Mutari
Mohamed Hail Al Otaibi
Abdullah Fahad Al Ajmi
Hamdi Saleh Al Otaibi
Man'a Abdul Hadi Al Ajmi
Mohamed Mnahi Al Otaibi
Abdullah Khalifa Al Houmaid
Sadoun Hammad Al Otaibi

22nd constituency

— Riqqa

Naser Fahad Al Ajmi
Owais Naser Al Ajmi
Mhameed Hamdan Al Otaibi

23rd constituency

— Sabahiya

Naser Mohamed Al Ajmi
Hussain Ali Al Azemi
Salman Hmaid Al Azemi
Misha' Al Mawarir Al Rasheed
Moutak Hussain Al Juwaliri
Masha'n Jaf' Al Mutari
Raja Abdullah Al Azemi

24th constituency

— Fahahel

Mohamed Lam'an Al Ajmi
Bader Rashid Al Otaibi
Fahid Matar Al Azemi
Marzouq Mohamed Al Houdaiban
Ayed Moutak Al Otaibi
Mubarak Hassan Al Hajri
Fahad Daihailha Al Otaibi
Mohamed Hmoud Al Hajri
Fahid Hamed Al Ajmi
Fahed Shaja' Al Ajmi

25th constituency

— Umm Al Halman

Owaid Sa'oud Al Azemi
Hamad Sief Al Azemi

US officials visited Tehran

(Continued from Page 1)

moud Hashemi. The third Lebanon deals with Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan.

Nouri contends that the US and Iran have agreed in principle that it is time to solve the problems, primarily the hostage issue, and resume diplomatic relations in about one year.

He said the release of all Western hostages held in Beirut is a delicate issue because Rafsanjani does not have the upper hand in controlling the captors of key hostages such as American journalist Terry Anderson and Britain's Terry Waite. They are held by groups that used to be part of Hezbollah, supported by Iranian radicals such as

Ayatollah Khomeini's son Ahmed, and Iran's Interior Minister Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, he said.

However, if any new hostages are released from Lebanon they are not likely to be taken to Damascus, Nouri said. Iran is reportedly upset with Syria for stealing the limelight when the hostages were freed.

A London-based Iranian diplomat has reportedly complained: "We have paid the kidnappers, we fed them and gave them weapons and when TV crews came to film the freed hostages it was Farouq Al Shara (Syrian Foreign Minister) who stood beside them and the Syrian Television was selling the news to ABC."

Any further release of hostages depends on the next American move, Nouri said.

"Until now the Americans have played with words. Iran will now wait for the US to deliver the goods," he explained.

Iran has demanded that the US stop supporting Iranian opposition, silence the Iranian pro-monarchist radio station broadcasting from Cairo, allegedly with the American support, expel some Iranian opposition leaders and stop the "anti-Iranian propaganda."

To bolster its bargaining position with Hezbollah Tehran, Nouri said, would also like the US to mediate with Israel for the release of Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, a fundamentalist abducted by Israeli commandos last year.

An Iranian official said a recent newspaper article by a high-ranking official calling for direct talks with the United States was "the personal view of the writer and President Hashemi Rafsanjani has got nothing to do with it," the Tehran Times reported on Tuesday.

The paper quoted Masih Mohajeri, Rafsanjani's advisor on social affairs, as saying "I talked to the President on Sunday and he made it clear the article reflects the personal opinion of the writer and it has no connection with him."

It said that Mohajeri did not indicate whether Rafsanjani himself was for or against the idea of opening direct talks with Washington.

KU admissions

THE Kuwait University draft five-year plan has reportedly made provisions for maximum 3000 students, however the number is constantly increasing and has recently reached 3275 students.

Sources at the university were quoted as saying that the plan includes the construction of a new university site to accommodate 40,000 students as projected for the year 2010, and that this figure will be divided into two between the existing and the proposed sites, each to accommodate 20,000 students.

The possibility exists of revising these numbers in the light of the output of the secondary stage and the attraction of students by the military academies and the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training and study scholarship.

Canadian embassy to move to new premises

THE Embassy of Canada is pleased to inform all its friends in Kuwait and the public in general, that the embassy will be moving into a new building at the beginning of May, 1990. After business hours, on May 2, the embassy will vacate the building which it presently occupies in Nuzha, and will move into a new chancery in Daiya at the intersection of Istiqlal Street and the

Third Ring Road.

The new embassy will be closed, however, on Saturday May 5, and Sunday May 6, due to the move, and will become operational on May 7. The visa section of the embassy will be closed for a longer period starting May 1, and will reopen on May 7 at the new location. The embassy apologises for any inconvenience that these

interruptions of service could create but looks forward to be in a position to offer better services from its new premises in the future.

The postal address of the embassy will remain the same: P.O. Box 25281, Safat 13113. The new complete street address will be: House 24, Al Mutawakel Street, Block 4, Daiya. The general telephone number of the

embassy will be: 2563025 (six lines). The embassy has been using this new phone number for the past six months in conjunction with older numbers which will no longer be used. The correct phone number after the move will be the one mentioned above. The current fax number will not change (2564167) nor will the embassy's telex number (23549 MCAN KT).

REQUIRED MALE SECRETARY

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2. Typing & analytical skills
3. Familiar with tenders business
4. No less than 5 years of work experience in Kuwait
5. Kuwaiti driver's licence
6. Transferable valid visa

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

SOME men are born mediocre, some men achieve mediocrity, and some men have mediocrity thrust upon them — Joseph Heller, writer.

West Europe needs Nato Soviet threat alive

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): The United States, not convinced that the Soviet threat has been eliminated by Eastern bloc changes, is trying to strangle at birth any idea that a pan-European security system should replace Nato.

As the Western alliance faces up to key meetings on its future, with some questioning whether it is still needed now the East-West "Iron Curtain" has crumbled, US officials are saying that while Nato may have to adapt, it is still vital.

"All of us would want to buy a cheap insurance policy if one were offered, and Nato is one," says James Dobbins, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs.

Objective

A European collective security system has long been a Soviet objective but was rejected in the past by the West as an attempt to get American troops out of Europe and allow Moscow to dominate the continent.

Now, with Soviet troops pulling out of Eastern Europe, the emerging democracies there and some Western politicians have suggested the 35-nation Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) could step up its security role.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere, while supporting membership of the expected unified Germany in the Western alliance, last week attacked "old style bloc thinking" and said: "What we need is a common European security system."

But US officials say it is unrealistic to replace a multinational alliance with a CSCE system that would be based on each country's national forces individually.

"(The Soviets) want to take a collective defence arrangement, Nato, and substitute a collective security arrangement. CSCE... we're saying no, that's not even in your interest," Dobbins told European journalists last week.

Another senior official said the Soviet Union would remain the only nuclear and conventional superpower in Europe even if it withdrew all its forces from abroad, and was still "amazingly unpredictable" in its domestic affairs.

Dismantling

"How can you start dismantling the structure of Western security in Europe while this question is still open?" said the official, who asked not to be identified.

"American troops were not sent to Europe in support of some vague League-of-Nations style collective security system, defending everybody against everybody."

The United States does accept that the CSCE could have an increased role in monitoring arms-control accords and settling disputes, as well as promoting economic co-operation and human rights.

The CSCE took shape in 1975 with the Helsinki Declaration on principles of relations between European states along with the United States and Canada. Its main security achievement has been agreeing rules to prevent military manoeuvres from causing international alarm. Washington, which has led Nato since its foundation 40 years ago, also agrees the alliance will change, with a bigger West European say and lower troop and arms levels that are being negotiated with the Warsaw Pact in Vienna.

Both sides agree that US forces in Western Europe should go down from 305,000 to 225,000, with Moscow making an even bigger cut down to 195,000 in Eastern Europe.

If a treaty can be negotiated — the latest round of talks ended last week with major outstanding problems, especially on aircraft numbers — it will be signed at a CSCE summit planned for about November.

US troops

American officials have hinted that US troop levels could later go lower still, although they stop short of endorsing a proposal by Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Sam Nunn that numbers should come down to between 75,000 and 100,000 within five years.

Another of Nunn's concerns, an end to Nato's land-based short-range nuclear weapons, does however, seem likely to be met with officials expecting the alliance to drop plans to develop a new short-range missile.

Nato faces a busy period, starting when US Secretary of State James Baker meets other allied foreign ministers next Thursday to discuss German unification.

There are further key meetings of defence and foreign ministers in May and June and plans for a summit, possibly in June of July, that will update the alliance's aims after the political earthquake in East Europe.

US officials say they are sceptical that Nato could become in the foreseeable future a purely political organisation, as sometimes suggested in Europe. One called this "escapism" from the West's continuing security needs.

But some independent US analysts say Nato will lose public confidence if it gives the impression it simply means to carry on for ever.

"Nato must make it clear it is working for conditions where it can be superseded by a different security structure," says Stanley Sloan of the Congressional Research Service. "Only then will the public see the Nato role as relevant."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1526 — Protestant League of Germany is formed.
- 1536 — England's Queen Anne Boleyn is sent to Tower of London and eventually is beheaded.
- 1565 — Knights of St. John defend Malta from Turks.
- 1668 — Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle is signed between France and Spain.
- 1734 — Spanish army under Don Carlos captures Naples.
- 1813 — Napoleon Bonaparte defeats Prussian armies at Lutten, Germany.
- 1826 — Peter IV waives right of accession to Portugal's throne in order to remain in Brazil.
- 1895 — British South Africa Company territory south of Zambesi is organised as Rhodesia.
- 1933 — Adolf Hitler abolishes trade unions in Germany.
- 1945 — Berlin surrenders to Soviet forces in World War II.
- 1949 — Afro-Asian Organization for Economic Co-operation, meeting in Cairo, Egypt, votes to exclude Soviet Union.
- 1963 — Chinese seamen rescued from freighter that sank in Yellow Sea claim their ship was torpedoed by unidentified submarine.
- 1967 — British prime minister Harold Wilson's Labour government decides to seek membership in European Common Market.
- 1976 — Sikh extremists kill seven people outside holy town of Amritsar, India.
- 1987 — Muslim rebels in Philippines threaten to renew hostilities unless substantial progress is made in negotiations on autonomy for 23 southern provinces.
- 1988 — Children's hospital collapses in India's northern state of Kashmir, killing at least 14 people.
- 1989 — Communist Hungary begins cutting through the barbed wire and electrically-charged fencing that divides it from the West.

Capitol Hill gearing for war

Congress for more defence cuts

WASHINGTON, (Reuters): Knives are being sharpened on Capitol Hill as the US Congress prepares to force Defence Secretary Dick Cheney to slice even larger chunks off his military budget as East-West tension eases.

Cheney proposed to Congress on Thursday cutting the planned number of radar-evading B-2 Stealth bombers to 75 planes from the original target of 132, and suggested cuts or delays in five other aircraft programmes to achieve defence savings of \$34.8 billion over the next eight years.

"I think the Warsaw Pact is a thing of the past, a relic of history," he said, while cautioning that US military forces had to be ready to respond to any threat that might develop.

But even as Cheney spoke, the House of Representatives was working on a budget resolution that leaders said would produce a "peace dividend" of \$250 billion over just five years.

Request

It would carve \$24 billion off President George Bush's \$306.9 billion defence request for next year. Senate Budget Committee chairman Jim Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat, wants to cut \$26 billion.

The Defence Department said cuts that big would force it to mothball up to another three of the army's 18 active divisions worldwide, in addition to the two it already plans to disband. It would cut its 2.1 million military force by up to 150,000 people next year.

Bush's power to veto Congress defence bills means he does not have to accept whatever action it takes, and administration officials say there is sure to be a budget summit that will work out a compromise.

But Bush supporters' hopes of winning nearly all of his defence request appeared dashed earlier this month when even the conservative Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Sam Nunn of Georgia called for defence cuts of up to \$18 billion.

"When someone as centrist and as conservative as Sam Nunn puts that number on it, not many people will go lower," said Gordon Adams, director of the non-government Defence Budget Project, a research group.

Nunn backed his proposal with a plan that many Congress members are likely to support for reshaping US military forces to achieve the cuts.

Troops

Essentially, he called for cutting the 305,000 US troops in Europe to as few as 75,000, putting part of the large active US military into reserve and turning much of the rest of it into rapid response forces that could move quickly into trouble spots anywhere in the world.

Nunn said European Nato allies should replace most US troops in forward defence units, but US forces should be in a position to move quickly back into Europe in a war.

He also said Bush's \$4.5 billion request for the Strategic Defence Initiative (Star Wars) antimissile



system research should be cut to last year's \$3.8 billion and Bush's plan to put MX 10-warhead nuclear missiles on railroad cars should be postponed.

But one flaw in Congress' defence cutting drive is the propensity of members to lobby in favour of weapons produced in their own districts.

Cheney complained at the end of the week that

some Congress members are only using the break-up of the Warsaw Pact's military power in the past year as their latest excuse to oppose US defence spending.

"There are people on Capitol Hill who probably would not have supported the defence budget in the middle of World War II," Cheney said.

Singapore becoming a fortress

SINGAPORE, (Reuters): Banking sharply, the sky-blue F-5 fighter jet settles into its final approach run before touching down on one of Singapore's multi-lane highways in an emergency landing exercise.

Specially reinforced and strategically located, the road embodies Singapore's defence policy, in which highways double as military runways and subway stations as air raid shelters, and a tenth of the population can be called to arms in six hours.

Dubbed "Total Defence", the policy is similar to that of the Swiss, who have turned their mountain nation into a fortress through careful planning.

"We liked the philosophy behind Swiss defence, namely full preparedness. That was an important concept. The more prepared we are for war, the less likely we will be involved in war," Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew said in a published interview.

Preparedness

Full preparedness has become a way of life for many of the 1.3 million men in Singapore, a tiny island state perched at the southern tip of the Malaysian peninsula.

First called up for two or two-and-a-half years of military service at the age of 18, men are liable for up to 40 days of training a year until they turn 40 or 50, depending on their rank.

Young and not-so-young men in uniform

are a common sight in the affluent city-state during weekends and after office hours.

Reservists now number about 250,000, over 80 per cent of the armed forces' strength, and would be among the front-line troops in the event of war, the Defence Ministry says.

Between annual call-ups, reservists are liable to immediate, unscheduled mobilisations which can last a few hours to a few days. "Such practices are vital because they serve to test the effectiveness of the mobilisation system," a Defence Ministry handbook says.

Full preparedness extends to civilian life. Citizens are exhorted to keep a stockpile of essential food at home and join in regular fuel and water rationing exercise.

Shelters

Air-raid shelters are planned in new public housing blocks, subway stations, hospitals, schools and community centres.

More than \$1.5 billion about 5.5 per cent of the nation's gross domestic product, is spent on Singapore's defence each year.

Most Singaporeans appear willing to pay the price for "total defence", but some are beginning to question the need for such high standards of preparedness.

"I think they're going too far now," said one senior reserve officer recently after the Defence Ministry held its first mobilisation during office hours.

Another reserve officer said the military

service system was one reason for Singapore's rising emigration, which in 1988 totalled 70,000 families. The government, concerned about emigration recently began to study ways to reward reservists for their sacrifices.

Some people worry that Singapore's defence posture could give neighbouring Malaysia and Indonesia the wrong idea.

"There is still some suspicion of each other's intentions, which is why Singapore is now concentrating on 'defence diplomacy,'" one defence analyst said.

Exercises

For the first time last year, Singapore held bilateral military exercises on land with both its neighbours. It is also emphasising the creation of an economic "growth triangle" comprising Singapore, Johor state in Malaysia and Batam island in Indonesia.

"The idea is to link their economic prosperity with Singapore's," the analyst said.

Even with better diplomatic relations, no lowering of Singapore's guard or change in defence strategy seems likely in the near future, analysts say.

They say Singapore, which has offered Washington military facilities, fears that if the United States withdrew from its bases in the Philippines, other regional powers could emerge.

Letters to the editor

Biased judgement

SIR: In reference to the letter of Shamim Pervaz Hyder in the Arab Times of April 17, 1990, he has tried to put every blame on the PPP government.

MQM call themselves Mohajir after 42 years living in Sindh province. The present leadership was born in Pakistan and grew in Pakistan therefore they should call themselves Pakistanis if not Sindhis. If they want peace they should learn to live like brothers. They are settled in Sindh province and should consider themselves Sindhis but not Mohajirs. Sindh is now their native place. They should consider that Sindh is their problem too and not that of the PPP alone. The PPP had inherited the situation which was created by the previous government.

MQM should stop their propaganda and should not press the government to release the criminals involved in killing of the innocent citizens. Let the law take its course. Punjabis, Pukhtoons and Mohajirs are Sindhis by virtue of their permanent settlement in Sindh. But why are Mohajirs not calling themselves Sindhis by virtue of their permanent settlement in Sindh?

Criminals

MQM supported the PPP government in a bid to get their criminals released. But when PPP government refused to release the criminals involved in killing innocent people, MQM withdrew their support and directed their trained guerrillas to create

havoc by shooting Punjabis, Pukhtoons and Sindhis and also to start looting the banks to meet their expenses.

There are about 15,000 trained guerrillas in Karachi and Hyderabad. In model colony Karachi, one MQM lady councillor was directing the operation against Punjabis and she was also giving protection to the culprits. When the arrests were made from her house along with arms there was lot of hue and cry. But they do not listen the cry of the parents whose sons and daughters were killed by MQM.

MQM chief is a born terrorist. He started his career by burning a bus in Karachi. Everyday he urges the Mohajirs to get ready for greater sacrifice — women are advised to sell their ornaments to buy arms.

Recently the PSF leader was shot dead in North Nazimabad and when the killers were arrested MQM chief went on hunger strike which was a political stunt. At a time when the Indian prime minister is threatening Pakistan the MQM leadership, instead of shouting unity, are diverting government attention to other problems just to strengthen the enemy.

Terrorism

When Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani requested the government to recover the arms from everybody MQM guns were directed against him. Dr Tahir Qadri unveiled the MQM terrorism in his monthly Minhaj-ul-Quran and he was fired upon in Lahore by MQM terrorists.

All the MQM leadership is requesting the president to take steps but they are not willing to talk to the provincial government for settlement or to discuss the matter in the assembly. Shamim is appealing to Amnesty International and democratic countries, but they did not make such appeal to anybody when they were throwing men and women along with children into burning fire.

The PPP government is constitutional and democratic and has the right to rule for five years.

MQM chief said Nawaz Sharif is an elected chief minister of Punjab and any conspiracy against him will damage the cause of democracy. What about Sindh chief minister — is he not an elected chief minister and would MQM conspiracy against the Sindh chief minister not damage the cause of democracy?

Let us learn to live like brothers and not to issue daily statements against each other. One should not talk about himself but to talk for the whole of Pakistan. Let us not protect the criminals at any cost if we have to achieve peace.

Muhammad Ali Alvi,
Karachi.

All Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Mongolia

Army moves away from party ties

ULAN BATOR, (Reuters): Mongolia's army, bulwark of the ruling Communist Party for nearly 70 years, is becoming a non-political force as the country moves towards a multi-party system.

The communists, faced with mass pro-democracy protests, renounced their power monopoly of nearly seven decades earlier this year, the latest of the Soviet Union's allies to do so.

Lieutenant Colonel Zundun Ragchaa, a member of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Army for the past 23 years, told reporters during a rare visit to a Mongolian army base: "As a military man, I think the army should not be influenced by a political party."

"We are a state organisation," he said during the tour arranged by the Foreign Ministry.

"As the multi-party system takes root in our society, the Mongolian People's Army will not serve the interest of any one party," said Ragchaa, who is authorised to speak for the government.

Separate

Communist Party sources also confirmed that it was now government policy to separate the army and the party.

Until Mongolia began moving towards a multi-party democracy a few months ago, the army owed its allegiance to the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

The communists now face opposition in Mongolia's first free elections, to be held in late July.

Opposition parties have complained that the army retains a residual loyalty to the communists, and have demanded that soldiers be allowed to support other parties.

But when pro-democracy hunger strikes in March brought the government close to using force, the army did not intervene on the communists' behalf.

Government insiders said the leadership was close to declaring martial law. But Ragchaa said he had received no orders to crack down on the protesters and the protest was resolved peacefully.

Military

"The leadership couldn't bear to spill Mongolian blood," said one government source. "After all, this is a country where everybody knows each other."

Mongolia has only two million people in a vast land nearly the size of Western Europe. This long-time ally of the Soviet Union has been gradually weaning itself from military dependence on Moscow, which has also provided Mongolia with infrastructure and foreign policy guidance.

No figures are available on Soviet troop strength in Mongolia, but a complete withdrawal of forces is planned by 1992.

Today there are no more Soviet advisers in Mongolia. But, based on the wind-swept outskirts of the Mongolian capital Ulan Bator, in the distance are clustered quarters of white felt yurts, or tents, chimneys pouring smoke from cooking fires.

On an open asphalt parade ground bounded by basketball nets, young recruits in fur hats drilled with aged Kalashnikov rifles.

In Mongolia young male high school leavers must serve two years' compulsory service. College graduates serve only one.

Ragchaa refused to comment on his personal feelings at seeing his regiment's time-honoured role as guardian of the Communist Party fade. His unit was founded in 1929, eight years after Mongolia became communist.

Statue

Giant statues of Soviet dictator Josef Stalin were recently removed in Ulan Bator. Residents said statues of the late Mongolian strongman Chinggis Khan — who like Stalin executed and exiled his political opponents — would also soon disappear.

"Until recently we used to extol these two figures," said Ragchaa. "Now we feel very guilty that we learned the truth about them so late."

Vast changes are under way as Mongolia radically scales down its military strength and concentrates more on building its backward civilian economy.

Mongolia reduced its army last year from about 26,000 to current strength of some 13,000, Ragchaa said.

"We are trying to find jobs for the servicemen who have been cut," said Ragchaa. "A small number of them haven't yet been able to find jobs."

Many former soldiers went into animal husbandry, a key occupation in what is still largely a nation of herders.

Mongolia, with an official annual per capita gross national product (GNP) of about \$156, has about 27,000 unemployed people, according to government figures.

QUOTE ME

"We asked them to release a second hostage unconditionally and on humanitarian and Islamic grounds to once again display their goodwill. We do believe that with the fulfilment of this promise the Lebanese Muslim groups have displayed maximum goodwill. The ball is now at the other party's court to reciprocate." — An unnamed official in an Iranian newspaper.

"I went to Moscow to set myself on fire in Red Square. The occupiers have cut off energy supplies and people are being thrown out of work. I have lived my whole life in occupied Lithuania." — Stanislovas Jaramaitis who died of self-immolation wrote.

"We assume that rent, energy and public services will continue to be subsidised." — Lothar de Maiziere to the Berliner Zeitung newspaper of East Berlin on continuation of subsidies after unification so E. Germans won't suffer.

"We can't tell what his chances are. He's not young any more and he has a very serious leukaemia... we've done very few transplants on leukaemia caused by radiation." — Dr Patricia Stewart of Seattle, on bone marrow transplant for Chernobyl disaster victim.

"With him in this form we can win the World Cup again. He's the key player in the Argentine squad... it's hard to say whether Diego is in better form now than when we won the Cup in Mexico but I'm sure that he's at least all the same level." — Bilardo, Argentine football coach.

سکرامنت

'We're the busiest we've ever been', says CBI chief

India's top cop agency fighting corruption, separatism

NEW DELHI, India, May 1. (AP): India's top law enforcement agency, already swamped with anti-corruption investigations, has stretched itself thinner by joining the fight against separatist movements.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has been in the news most often for probing deals made while prime minister Rajiv Gandhi was in office. Rajiv lost his job in November's elections to anti-corruption candidate V.P. Singh.

Now it is also undertaking routine murder investigations in the troubled state of Jammu-Kashmir, anti-terrorist probes in bloody Punjab and trying to put down a tribal revolt in faraway Assam.

The man at the top is director general Rajendra Shekhar, a 55-year-old career police officer.

"I'm losing weight," Shekhar said recently. "We're the busiest we've ever been."

Shekhar looks worn out. These days he's drinking jasmine tea with lime, which is supposed to improve his appetite.

Faced with local police forces that are

too busy, too scared or too partisan, Shekhar has directed agents to take over police investigations in Kashmir. The state in India's northwest is the scene of a Muslim separatist movement. More than 300 people have died since the government launched a crackdown on the movement in January.

Just south of Kashmir, bureau agents are investigating separatist violence by Sikh extremists in Punjab state. Many Punjab police are virtually confined to their barracks because they are favourite targets of Sikh gunmen. More than 5,800 people have been killed by the separatists in Punjab since 1987.

In Assam, in the remote northeast, bureau agents are investigating the Bodo tribe, which worships spirits believed to live in rocks and trees. The Bodos want a separate state within India and have been attacking Assamese Hindus.

But the real work of the agency is fighting corruption.

India's British colonial rulers established the Central Bureau of Investigation

shortly after the end of World War II to investigate links between India businessmen and the government. After independence in 1947, its work continued.

Now, of the 1,200 cases filed by the bureau's 3,907 agents every year, about 1,000 are corruption-related, Shekhar said.

Corruption is the grease that turns wheels in South Asia. Traffic cops routinely take "baksheesh," a small cash payment, to ignore violations. Businessmen consider pay-offs and kickbacks a part of the job.

But lately the extent of the problem has grown, Shekhar said.

"The factors that give impetus to corruption are getting more and more pronounced," he said.

Industrialization, inflation, development, and unemployment all contribute to malfeasance, he said.

Preliminary charges have been filed in three cases involving former members of Rajiv's government. Two concern alleged payment of bribes to Indian government

officials by Europe's Airbus Industrie consortium and Hawadswerte-Deutsche Werft, a West German submarine manufacturer.

A high-ranking former civil servant was charged in connection with the \$1.47 billion Airbus deal for 38 planes, while a former defence secretary was named in the \$334 million contract for four West German submarines.

The agency has also filed preliminary charges in a case involving a \$1.4 billion deal for howitzers from the Swedish arms manufacturer AB Bofors. Bureau investigators have charged Bofors with cheating India out of \$37 million and unidentified Indian government officials with criminal misconduct.

Charges related to an alleged political dirty tricks campaign against the son of prime minister Singh are expected soon.

Western diplomats say the growing scope of the bureau's responsibilities is a sign that local police are incapable of coping with the level and complexity of crime in India.

It also indicates, they say, that the central government doesn't trust local officials to undertake proper investigations.

"Under these circumstances, it's easy for the law enforcement process to break down," said one diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The bureau is stretched too thin. They don't have good relations with local police. And the crooks keep committing crimes."

Critics of the bureau say many of its investigations are politically motivated. Charges of corruption haunted Rajiv's administration and hobbled it at the polls last November. Singh, who used to be Rajiv's finance minister, quit the government after his investigations of corruption were stymied.

But now, diplomats say, there appears to be a fair vindictiveness in the investigations. They cite the dirty tricks investigation concerning Singh's son. By forcing the bureau to concentrate on what many consider a minor case, Singh's administration is using law enforcement to fight its

political battles, another Western diplomat said.

Shekhar denied that his bureau could be used to carry out political vendettas.

"Our work has nothing to do with politics," he said. "If we think the case is legitimate, we investigate."

Shekhar made his mark in law enforcement late in his career when he led the investigation into one of India's biggest bank robberies — the \$3.35 million heist from the Punjab National Bank in 1987.

Of the 24 original suspects, 10 wound up dead, although Shekhar says the police didn't kill them. Several others disappeared, and only a few were convicted and jailed. In the Indian context, the case was considered a success.

Shekhar looks at his current post in a similar light — incremental steps can be taken, but no major changes should be expected.

"If we can set an example with one or two corruption cases, I suppose we are doing our job," he said. "But then again, nobody could pay any attention."

2 killed in Kashmir

Eight top militants held; 5 bodies found

SRINAGAR, May 1. (Reuters): Indian troops killed two people for breaking a curfew in Srinagar and widened a dragnet for Muslim militants fighting Indian rule in Kashmir, police sources said today.

Two Kashmiri photo-journalists were released late yesterday after spending 33 hours blindfolded in police detention while being interrogated about militant activities in the Kashmir valley, family members of the photographers said.

Merajuddin, a photographer of the English-language Kashmiri Times who also worked part-time for Reuters, and Habibullah Naqash, a photographer with an Urdu-language newspaper, were arrested on Sunday in Srinagar.

Police said the two were picked up for talking on a street corner with a suspected militant.

Indian security forces extended house-to-house searches for suspected militants and for the first time began raiding houseboats on Dal Lake, a popular tourist haven in more peaceful times, residents and state officials said.

An official spokesman said eight "top militants" had been arrested since Monday, including an area commander of the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, which has been spearheading the Kashmiri secessionist campaign.

About 600 people have been arrested in the search for militants during the last month, the spokesman said.

Indian authorities in March clamped a 24-hour curfew on Srinagar, centre of the revolt, and began an intense dragnet operation to flush out militants.

More than 300 people have been killed this year in the insurrection against Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir, Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state.

Five more bodies were found in Kashmir, witnesses said, but life in Srinagar seemed to be returning back to normal after the lifting of a nine-hour curfew.

One of the five bodies, identified as that of a Muslim man whom militants suspected of being a police informer, was found on the bypass road around Srinagar, witnesses said. They said there were no discernible bullet wounds and cause of death was not known.

The other four bodies were found within a 100-km (60-mile) radius of Srinagar, witnesses reported. Their identities were not immediately known.

In Srinagar, where curfews have confined people to their homes for most of the past month with only breaks of a few hours, life resumed a semblance of normalcy during daylight hours yesterday.

Offices and shops opened and traffic moved normally when the 9 am-6 pm curfew was lifted.

The government's January crackdown was in response to an escalating wave of assassinations, bombings and arson attacks by militant Muslims who want to secede from predominantly Hindu India. Most of those who died were militants or their supporters who were shot by government troops during anti-Indian demonstrations or while defying curfew.

For quite some time, there have



Bomb blast victim

A seriously injured victim of a bomb blast is moved into an ambulance in New Delhi on Monday. The man was among 25 people injured when a bomb ripped through a public transport bus killing at least four. (Reuters wirephoto)

Janata Dal delays poll

Colombo to ask India

Repatriate Tamils

By Thomas Abraham

Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, May 1: In a rather surprising move, the Janata Dal put off by about a week today's election for an interim president for the party.

Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate, who is the returning officer for the election, said the decision to postpone it was taken because of "certain practical difficulties."

"The decision promptly sparked off speculation about possible efforts to arrive at a consensus on the new president and avoid a contest as the election looked poised to turn into a major battle of strength between Prime Minister V.P. Singh's supporters and opponents within the party, which is the main constituent of the country's ruling National Front."

It was Singh's decision to step down from the presidency to uphold the principle of one-man, one-vote that necessitated the election. The two main candidates for the job were Dal General Secretary S. Jaipal Reddy and former Karnataka chief minister S.R. Bommai. A third candidate, Lok Sabha member Hukam Dev Aranyan Yadav, was not given much chance of victory.

The interim president will hold office till later this year when the party will hold full-fledged elections.

Dandavate said the fresh date for polling, scheduled to be held in the respective state capitals, would be announced soon.

According to him, ballot papers had not reached all the polling centres and some of the presiding officers had learnt quite late about their appointments, delaying arrangements. Earlier, the party's political committee had met on April 16 and finalised the poll programme, when it had also shifted the date of polling from April 29 to May 1.

The decision to postpone the election came after a meeting of the party's senior leaders, including Biju Patnaik, B.K. Hegde, Ajit Singh, George Fernandes and others, here yesterday.

For quite some time, there have

been moves to find a consensus candidate for the job to avoid the bitterness of elections. But Singh is said to have opposed the move. Earlier, Devi Lal had spoken out strongly against any such suggestion and also opined that the new president should be someone from the south.

The deputy prime minister, who was on an official tour of China last week, made known his support to Bommai from Beijing itself.

During the last few days people like Hegde have tried to discuss the matter with the two main candidates to see if one of them could be persuaded to withdraw in favour of the other.

Bommai is said to have the support of Devi Lal and the chief ministers of Haryana and Gujarat, among others. Reddy is being supported by Hegde, Patnaik and Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav.

The prime minister himself has not indicated who his choice would be though there are those who believe that Reddy enjoys his support.

The electoral college consists of about 2,500 party members of Parliament, legislative assemblies, legislative councils and Dal's defeated candidates in the recent elections. Uttar Pradesh with 520 votes and Bihar with about 400 would play a crucial role in deciding the outcome. So will Karnataka with about 290 and Maharashtra with 180 votes. Tamil Nadu has 14 votes and Kerala only nine.

When Sri Lanka became independent from Britain in 1948, it made a series of agreements with India for the gradual repatriation of Tamil plantation workers who held Indian citizenship.

The process came to a virtual halt in 1984. Ferry service between the two countries was interrupted by ethnic violence when the northeastern Tamils revolted against Sri Lanka's Sinhalese-dominated government.

Under a 1987 Indian-Sri Lankan accord, India agreed to expedite the process. "Now the time has come for them to move out," Wijerane said. "If India does not start the ferry service, it will result in sabotage of the agreement."

The ferries operated between Talaimannar in northwestern Sri Lanka and Rameshwaram in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu state, a distance of 50 kilometres (30 miles).

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Probe on heavy water to India

OSLO, May 1. (AP): Norwegian authorities are investigating how a shipment of heavy water bound for Romania in 1986 was diverted to India in violation of Norwegian export rules, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

The new Romanian government recently informed Norway that the ousted regime of Nicolai Ceausescu had allowed the shipment to be passed on to India, said spokesman Janis-Bjoern Kanavin.

Heavy water, or deuterium oxide, can be used for the production of nuclear weapons. Norwegian sales have been regulated by strict export laws, including a ban on selling to countries that have not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, such as India.

Kanavin said public prosecutor Ansten Gjengedal was investigating whether any Norwegian citizen had committed a crime in connection with the diversion of the shipment to India. Kanavin did not have details on how or when the diversion took place.

He said Norway sold the shipment to Romania under the impression that it was to have been used for civilian nuclear power.

Asked whether Norway was going to seek an explanation from the Indian government about its use of the heavy water, Kanavin said, "we are finding out what really has happened."

India says it gets all its imported heavy water from the Soviet Union.

A few years ago, press reports said 15 tonnes of heavy water was sent to India via West Germany. The reports were never publicly confirmed.

Heavy water, which is also used as a coolant in nuclear reactors, also can be used to convert uranium into plutonium in atomic weapons.

Oslo banned exports of heavy water in March 1989 following indications that shipments had ended up in countries on the Norwegian blacklist.

Norway's only heavy water supplier, the Norsk Hydro A/S industrial concern, stopped production a year ago. It once produced about 20 tonnes a year.

Bomb blasts in Pakistan cities

ISLAMABAD, May 1. (Reuters): A bomb exploded in a Pakistani bus today injuring 14 passengers in the second such incident in two days.

Police said the bomb, concealed under a seat, exploded at Kot Khizri in Punjab province, the official news agency APP reported.

Yesterday, one person died and 11 were hurt when a bomb blasted a bus in the Punjab capital, Lahore.



Thousands of Nepalese workers march through narrow streets in Kathmandu to celebrate May Day. (Reuters wirephoto)

Youths rally on May Day

Nepal reds emerge

KATHMANDU, May 1. (Reuters): Thousands of Nepalese youths waved red hammer-and-sickle flags on May Day marking the emergence of communism as a major political force in the Himalayan kingdom.

In the capital, Kathmandu, 10,000 youths, many sporting red ties with their faded blue jeans, cheered when communist leader Man Mohan Adhikari told them today.

"If the palace tries to snatch away democracy, we will come out into the streets again," he said.

A reformist coalition government of liberals and communists, allowed to take office by King Birendra after police shot dead dozens of democracy demonstrators, made today a public holiday.

The monarch's father, King Mahendra, banned trade unions and political parties in 1961. Celebration of May 1 as International Labour Day was not allowed.

"The youths look to us to curtail the powers of the monarchy. That is our main appeal," Adhikari, general secretary of the Nepali Communist Party, told Reuters.

His organisation is one of seven communist factions allied with the liberal Nepali Congress Party in an interim government charged with overhauling the constitution to curb Birendra's absolute powers and holding multiparty elections by next April.

Adhikari blamed the king for bloodshed on April 6, when police opened fire to halt a march by tens of thousands on the palace in Kathmandu.

Today, the crowd, which had stood for a minute's silence in honour of the dead, cheered and applauded the attacks on the monarchy.

The disciplined rally in a Kath-

mandu park was opened by youths singing the socialist anthem, the Internationale, in Nepali.

The only policemen in the area stayed behind the walls of a local government headquarters, which was burned by crowds after they beat to death eight policemen eight days ago.

Troops have enforced night curfews on the capital since the violence was quelled with security force gunfire. Police have been reluctant to return to duty in full strength.

L.B. Karanjit, a 42-year-old union leader, said he had come to the rally because communism promised jobs for Nepal's unemployed and better conditions for those in work.

Santa Shrestha, 20, said the communists would cut her working hours and raise her salary at a garment factory in the neighbouring city of Patan.

The communists are strongest in towns like Patan where Nepal's embryonic industrial development is concentrated.

They seem to be trying to penetrate the countryside where most of Nepal's 18 million people live by subsistence farming, many still worshipping the king as a descendant of the Hindu god Vishnu.

Adhikari, balding, bespectacled and in his 60s, told Reuters the communist programme was too radical for the older generation in Nepal, a landlocked country closed to the outside world until the 1950s.

Communists won a few seats in 1959 in Nepal's only previous experiment with multiparty democracy, ended by a palace coup in December, 1960. The interim government is the first to give communists cabinet seats.

The Indian army has moved closer to the border with Pakistan, the neighbour it has fought

SAMBA, India, May 1. (Reuters): While leaders in the capitals of the subcontinent talk of war, Indian villagers near the Pakistan border harvest their grain.

"The talk about war is all talk. We are not afraid," said Girdhari Lal, a shopkeeper in Londi village, 200 metres (yards) from the border with Pakistan in the arid and sparsely populated Samba area of India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

"The harvesting of wheat is going on. There are no instructions to complete the harvesting early," he said.

The Indian army has moved closer to the border with Pakistan, the neighbour it has fought

in three wars since both became independent of Britain in 1947. Some of the Indian heavy armour has been camouflaged, but people using highway to Jammu can see it from the main road. But the army denies it has moved new equipment, saying it is part of the routine rotation.

An acrimonious dispute over the disputed territory of Kashmir — the cause of two of the previous wars — has raised fears of another clash.

A violent separatist revolt in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, fuelled a war of words between the two countries as India accused Pakistan of instigating the disorders.

Pakistan denies the charges.

Pakistan has never recognised the integration of Kashmir into India and insists that Kashmiris be allowed to vote on their own political fate.

India rules about two-thirds of the state, while Pakistan controls the rest.

In the past week some of the war fever has cooled. On Wednesday, the foreign ministers of the two countries met at the United Nations and agreed tensions should be reduced.

Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gural and his Pakistani counterpart, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, while sticking to their position, agreed that channels of communications should remain open on all levels.

In 1987, India and Pakistan went to the brink of war after the Indian army held massive war games near the border. Pakistan moved its army closer to the frontier and Indian border villages were evacuated.

"Our village has not been evacuated so there is no fear of war at the moment," said Budit Singh, a village official. "But I don't know what will happen if something happens suddenly."

The only disruption so far of village life in the Samba area, about 60 km (40 miles) from Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital, is a dusk-to-dawn curfew in border areas.

The border is tightly guarded, especially at night, by Indian

Border Security Force (BSF) patrols that stop villagers from crossing over.

Life in border villages near Samba, the area's market town, looked normal with men busy harvesting the wheat crop and women doing household chores.

In Suchetgarh, a village near Jammu where the farm is divided a border fence, children played cricket and flew kites. The men seemed uneasy but unafraid. Women chatted near the village well.

Men on both sides of the border tilled the fields, some times only a few metres (yards) from each other. Pakistani rangers and the BSF warily view the activities from tall watch-towers.

Border Security Force (BSF) patrols that stop villagers from crossing over.

Life in border villages near Samba, the area's market town, looked normal with men busy harvesting the wheat crop and women doing household chores.

In Suchetgarh, a village near Jammu where the farm is divided a border fence, children played cricket and flew kites. The men seemed uneasy but unafraid. Women chatted near the village well.

Men on both sides of the border tilled the fields, some times only a few metres (yards) from each other. Pakistani rangers and the BSF warily view the activities from tall watch-towers.

Benazir faces another challenge

ISLAMABAD, May 1. (Reuters): Pakistani opposition parties posed a fresh legal challenge yesterday to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, accusing her of violating political ethics to stay in office.

The challenge was the second of its kind in less than three weeks and came in a petition sent to National Assembly (lower house) speaker Malik Meraj Khalid by firebrand deputy Abida Hussain, according to an opposition statement.

The petition accused Benazir of abusing Pakistan's official machinery to defeat a no-confidence motion by the Combined Opposition Parties (COP) in the 237-seat assembly last November.

It said she used an air force transport plane to "hijack" about 80 assembly members to a northwestern town "in order to pressurise them and prevent them from exercising their right of vote with an independent mind."

At the time, government and opposition accused each other of horse-trading and said they had removed their deputies from Islamabad to protect them from being pressured before the November vote.

Hussain's petition said Benazir had committed a "serious violation of all notions and canons of political ethics" and could be disqualified from assembly membership, which would mean automatic loss of the office of prime minister.

Speaker Khalid, a member of Benazir's ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), must pass the petition on to the government's chief election commissioner for a decision.

Hussain is the secretary of the COP, one of whose deputies went to court on April 11 to challenge Benazir's legitimacy on other grounds.

Bangla stampede toll rises to 34

CHITTAGONG, May 1. (Reuters): The death toll caused by a stampede of beggars fighting for handouts of clothing and money has been set at 34, officials said today.

Beggars stampeded last Thursday in the Pahartali district of this Bangladesh port city when businessmen distributed gifts on the eve of Eid al-Fitr.

Ten thousand women and children, mainly beggars, gathered for the handouts. At least 100 were injured.

Chittagong city authorities and businessmen will jointly pay 21,000 taka (\$600) to the families of each of the dead.

EVENTS

Dhananjayans: in search of purity of dance

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

THE dancing family of Madras, India, the Dhananjayans, are all set to storm the Kuwait stage at the India Festival at the IAC tonight.

Shanta and Dhananjayan, and their son Satyajit, together with troupe members Srilatha Vishwanathan and Sangeeta Jayasundar will present dance dramas based on epics like Mahabharat and Ramayan.

Indian dance, particularly Bharatanatyam in which they specialise, is a form of expressing themselves through body language; the dancer speaking through mudras (gestures) to convey emotions. In Indian dance there are nine emotions, expressing them through mime, and a skilled dancer can enthral, entertain, educate, says Dhananjayan.

And the devotional value, which is an intrinsic part of dance culture, is embedded in the 3-Ds: discipline, dedication and devotion, says Dhananjayan. "Dance helps us to achieve them," he added.

The Dhananjayans, who formed the Bharata Kalanjali dance academy in Madras, are said to be among the 10 best exponents of Bharatanatyam in India. The winners of several awards and honours, the dancing couple Shanta and Dhananjayan are known for their mission to uphold the glory and purity of classical dance forms.

The contemporary dance scene in India is a trifle troubling for the performers who feel that a "pseudo-culture" has emerged. This is largely responsible for the deterioration of classical dance and its adulteration, they said.

"A class of affluent people has emerged who believe that teaching dance to their children puts

them in the upper class bracket. After three months training, dancers make their debut. This is certainly not dance," they said.

Dhananjayan said people nowadays don't appreciate the value of strict training and discipline to master the skills. At least three years strenuous practice is needed to prepare for the debut, they insist.

They are understandably concerned about the "adulteration" of classical dance forms in cinema, which has a wider viewership than elite classical performances.

"A majority of the people that dance as depicted in cinema is the real thing, and when the classical form is presented before them, they are shocked — they can't understand it," they explained.

Most people don't know the difference between good dance and popular cinema dance, they said. But there is hope and something can be done.

In the last few years, dance has become a symbol of prestige and people have realised the value of art. Dance culture is getting exposure and the audiences are receptive. They only need educating and exposure to the true dance forms.

The dancers are also troubled by the lack of support for professional artists in the government backed institutes. Said Shanta: "Political manoeuvring is responsible for the infiltration of poor quality dancers who are passed off as professionals."

They were also critical of the method of operation in govern-

ment-run dance institutes with the wrong people holding crucial jobs. "The future of classical dance is bright; it has a good scope; but we have to see to it that amateurs are not billed as professional dancers."

They are professional and disciplined, as was evident from the demonstration they gave for the students of Indian schools at the IAC yesterday morning. The group received hearty applause from the giggly girls who were tickled by the demonstration of the difficult facial and eye movement exercises that are done to learn bhava (expression); different hand and foot movement were also explained by Dhananjayan, who had the girls totally engrossed in his lecture, and visibly impressed.

INDIAN VIDEO ROUNDUP

Togetherness unfulfilled

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

TRUTHFULLY, Vinod Pande's *Sach* is an unusual film, and fairly engrossing in its treatment of adult relationships, particularly the tenuous links a man and a woman, in this instance Hansa and Raj.

Pande, who has written, produced and directed the film, has carefully scripted the story of two lonely people seeking warmth outside socially recognised relationships. An element of mystery, injected in the latter half of the movie, gives a new dimension.

Hansa, a successful fashion designer, separates from her husband, Sunil, her wayward, alcoholic husband; Sunil, a former tennis player turns on her the day Hansa's father disinherit her. Basically, Sunil becomes a parasite; she tolerates as long as he gives her warmth; but when he goes astray and cheats on her, they grow apart. She has no regrets.

"Can you replant a tree that has been uprooted?" she asks when someone tells her to patch up with her husband.

Raj, a leading newspaper editor, is proud of his moral integrity and faces seedy threats from his detractors. But his personal life is in a shambles; he has to cope with a schizophrenic wife who despises him. He feels isolated, unwanted.

In principle, two people can find companionship; in practice, such a complex relationship makes the couple social outcasts, especially if they consciously or unconsciously break the rules. And what happens if this occurs is what Pande delves on, with a trace of mystery for good measure.

Pande's film focusses on their clandestine meetings, snatched conversations and formal meetings in a social set up. He uses flashbacks to tell their story,

and in doing so, arouses our sympathy toward the two characters.

Sach, a social comment for a better part, turns into a thriller after the murder of a woman in a seedy hotel; Hansa and Raj see the killer walk away from her room. It is at this point that Pande questions Raj's integrity who comprises to hide his indiscretion despite knowing the identity of the killer. While his newspaper covers the trial of the alleged murderer, Raj, troubled by his guilty conscience seeks a reprieve.

The script, however, falters in wrapping up the tale. Abruptly, the intense build-up fizzles out. The performers — all newcomers — include Vinod Pande, Hashmat Khan and Anuradha Sawant.

Despite the obvious shortcomings like the poor camera work and the unsatisfactory ending, *Sach* is worth a view, unlike *Shadyantra*.

Shadyantra (conspiracy) harps on the off-repeated theme of duty-bound police officers becoming the victims of a conspiracy that not only destroys the officer concerned but spreads the cancer of corruption in society. In true cinematic style, truth finally triumphs but not before several people lose their lives in the unending conflict between good vs. evil.

The proverbial friendship between the Hindus and Muslims; compromises, reformation of seedy characters and the decimation of the ultimate evil are other formula ingredients which are dramatically woven into the predictable tale.

Hema Malini stars in the movie.

The above films are by courtesy of Alhambra Video, Main St., Farwaniya; and Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg., Sharq.



Shanta and Dhananjayan: accomplished dancers



Sangeeta, Satyajit and Srilatha doing Alaripu — the basic dance form — for Indian School students.

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Islamic Art

We have the pleasure to announce the opening of the "Masterpieces of Islamic art from the Hermitage and from the Daghestan Museums" to which you are cordially invited on Tuesday May 1, 1990 at 5.00 pm at Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyyah.

The exhibition will be on display daily (except Saturdays) from May 1 until May 31, 1990.

SOCIAL

Daniella Dhow Trip

FOR reasons beyond the control of the Daniella Club, the Dhow trip for Dances has been postponed till Friday, May 18, at 10 am. For reservations call Jytte Tel. 2449610 before May 5.

Guardian Angel Club

The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Osterecho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Rennie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goa Charlie Chaplin — Jacinto Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Black is Beautiful

THURSDAY, MAY 3rd 1990: A tribute to Nelson Mandela titled "Black is Beautiful" an Afro — Soul and Reggae concert featuring Steve Michael and The Afro Beat is scheduled at the Basketball stadium of the Al Arabi Sporting Club, Mansouriyah, from 8 pm.

An airticket — Kuwait-Nairobi-Kuwait from Gulf Air. Electronic equipment from Sharp, a special offer from Showbiz etc are added attractions.

Limited tickets are now available on sale at: Showbiz 5726729, Al Arabi Club: 2652726, Swan Lake Rec: 5721030, Art Corner: 2665068, Soft Rock Cafe: 2403648, Image Recording: 2405859, White House: 2476660, Family Book Shop: 571430, Modern Sports: 5748684.

Saligaocars

CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam, at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel No. 2406936 (Res), Aloio Carvalho, 2411442, Res. 246121, Cedric D'Mello, Res. 3986469 and Paul D'Cruz, Res. 2444729, Tony Cordeiro off, 2415401, Res. 2412337.

Oriental carpets

DISPLAY of Oriental carpets — old and new — will be held on Thursday, May 3, and Friday, May 4, from 10 am to 4 pm, House No. 7, Street No. 7, Sector 1, Surra. Tel: 5326833.

Hyderabad

FRIDAY (May 4, 1990), Sports ground, behind Cinema Jleeb Al Shuyukh. 9.00 am — Inauguration of celebrations and sports by the Ambassador of India, Arun Kumar Budhiraja. 10.00 am — Sports and games for children, ladies, gents and veterans. 12.00 noon — Break for prayer and lunch. 2.00 pm — Festival cricket match for veterans.

Friday (May 11, 1990), Mesilah Beach Resort. 3.00 pm — Once in a life time chance to taste and enjoy delicious and mouth watering dishes. Games, lucky draw and magic show for children. Prize distribution.

Thursday (May 17, 1990), Carlton Tower Hotel, Fahd Al Salem St. 8.00 pm — Highlighting the golden era of Hyderabad followed by a grand Mushaira by guest and local poets and release of souvenir.

Friday (May 18, 1990), Starlite theatre, Entertainment City (Doha), Kuwait. 5.00 pm — Valetudic function and musical night of ghazals by invitee artists from Hyderabad and local artists, light music and many more items.

Sponsors: Mohd Hoshdar Khan, Mohd Shaheen H. Khan. For further details and information please contact: General information: Mohamad Fasihuddin Chand, Tel: 2403603-5659647; Mohamad Naseeruddin, Tel: 4736958, Sports: Dr Naidu, Tel: 4842578; Karim Idan, Tel: 3716247, Musical programme: Dr Shakeel Khan, Tel: 5317885; Shahnoor Khan, Tel: 5644539, Souvenir: N. Nizamuddin Ahmed, Tel: 4745537; Zakiuddin, Tel: 2428105; Mohamad H. Khan, Tel: 2402019, Literary: Dr Sami Khan, Tel: 4811514; Eltesham Uddin, Tel: 2463116. Sponsors: Mohd Hoshdar Khan, Mohd Shaheen H. Khan.

Kuwait School of Contemporary Dance

Presents "The dancer is the Dance & Dance is Life" on Monday, April 30th at 8 pm; Tuesday, May 1st at 8 pm; Wednesday, May 2nd at 8 pm; Thursday, May 3rd at 3 pm (matinee); Thursday, May 3rd at 8 pm.

Tickets are on sale from Saturday, April 14th from 4 pm — 6 pm, Saturday — Wednesday in the Box Office in the Mousetrap Theatre or Tel: 5382099 from 8 am — 12 noon.

Seminar

TO be held at the auditorium of KFAS on May 2, 1990. Opening session — 09.30 — 09.30.

Dr Adel T. Adamova — "Miniatures of the Khamsa of Nizami, 1431" (Lecture is in English) — 09.30 — 10.30.

Dr Fatima Hamzatova — "Traditional Art in Dagestan" (Lecture is in Russian) — 10.30 — 11.30.

Break for prayers Professor Galina Pugachenkova — "The development of Architecture in Central Asia from the 7th — 17th century (Lecture is in French) — 12.00 — 13.00; Discussion — 13.00 — 13.30.

Break for lunch at the invitation of KFAS Professor Mikhail Piotrovsky — "Characteristic features of Arab-Islamic Medieval Artistic Culture" (Lecture is in Arabic) — 16.00 — 17.00.

Dr Ahmadov Ashraf "The Contribution of Arabs and Muslims in the Advancement of Science" (Lecture is in Arabic) — 17.00 — 18.00; Discussion — 18.00 — 18.30.

Break for prayers Dr Vitali Naumkin "The Study of Arabic and Islamic Culture in the USSR" (Lecture is in Arabic) — 19.00 — 20.00. Dr A.B. Khalidov — "Arabic manuscripts from the Library of Muhammad Parsa" (Lecture is in Arabic) — 20.00 — 21.00.

Dinner at Kuwait Towers This seminar is open to the public and will have simultaneous translations.

Ladies International League SUMMER bazaar: Regency Palace Hotel, Friday May 11, from 10 am to 6.00 pm. Something for everyone. See you there.

Cosmos Summer Nite

KUWAIT Cosmos Hockey Club presents Cosmos Summer Nite, an open-air event of the decade on May 10, 1990 at 21.00 hrs until dawn at the lush green lawns of the Hunting and Equestrian Club (by the pool-side). Music by The Hurricane & The Equalisers. Highlights: "Cosmos Summer Nite special: "Novelty dance; "Table surprises; "Ballroom competition; "Live exhibition of the famous Brazilian "Lambada" performed by the team of the Kuwait India Festival. Plenty of gifts in store inclusive of air tickets and not forgetting the aroma of an exotic buffet prepared by exclusively Indian chefs.

Come one, come all — pick your invitation and make your table reservations from the undermentioned members: Benny — 2661831 (R); Fortes — 4874172 (R); Dama — 5623621 (R); Vincent — 4887140 (R).

Law Graduates' Forum

THE next meeting of "Malayalee Law Graduates' Forum, the association of Indian (Malayalee) Law Graduates working in Kuwait, which was formed with the intention to advise the needy expatriates on Indian legal matters, will be held on Friday evening, 4.5.1990. All Keralite law graduates are cordially invited. For further information please call: P.O. Thomas Panicker - 4332713; Samuel John - 2429285; Philip Thampan - 2444808.

Konkani Theatre

MAY 10-11: Roseferns and his 15 member troupe arrive from Goa to present two Konkani dramas namely new release Xinxu at 7 pm (May 10) and repeated at 4 pm (May 11) and diamond jubilee completed Beiman Tum at 10.30 am on May 11 at Granada Cinema, Kheitan. Contrary to reports circulating, THIS IS NOT A LOCAL SHOW and Roseferns, popularly known as Goa's King of Centuries should not be mistaken for one local identical namesake in Kuwait. Tickets available at Raja Stores Tel. 2412970, Tony 5655056, Wilson 3726038, Manuel/Rommel 4816836, Rocky 3924159, Val 5614506 and Alex Martins. An Expatriate Club presentation.

Garden Fete

Hyderabad Festival Committee announces the holding of a garden fete on Friday, May 11, Mesilah Beach Resort. It will be open to all families. Hyderabad food, magic show, games and a lot of fun is promised for families. A fancy dress competition is also proposed. Parents of children below 12 who wish to take part in the event can register children's name on 5619071, Mr. Khan.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxiti Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Ega de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawaii.

For more information contact 4817857.

Daniella Dhow Trip

Daniella invites all Dances to go on a dhow trip on Friday, May 4. For registration please call Jytte on Tel: 2449610 before April 22.

HOTELS

Kuwait International Hotel FAILAKA: Offers a celebration menu. Promises to be a

gourmet's delight. Special Arabic appetizer and desert buffet with a choice of soups and main courses. Live entertainment too.

LA PALMA: Eid gala brunch buffet for lunch and extensive Arabic buffet for dinner with oriental band.

LA PALMA POOL: Surprise barbeque for lunch with jazz band.

GARDEN POOL: Superb Kubli Khan Mongolian barbeque. Mix and match your lunch while it is prepared according to your palate.

LA PATISSERIE: Oriental sweets buffet with tea and coffee. Plenty of take-away too.

CHILDREN'S CORNER: Star of the show "AFL" will land with his spaceship at the Kuwait International. Games, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Kiddie Castle will provide non-stop excitement from 12 noon to 3.00 pm.

All details at: 2530000 ext. 8039 or 8040.

Kuwait Sheraton

RICCARDO Restaurant: The Riccardo restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine will be open for lunch and live entertainment with "Franco and Regina" every night.

Hunt Room: The famous Hunt Room restaurant offers some of the best meat and fish preparation for lunch and dinner with live entertainment nightly.

Le Tarbouche: Open for lunch and dinner. Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot and cold buffet dishes for families and friends. Al Hambra: Enjoy the Arabian Night theme at the Al Hambra with delicious Arabic dishes buffet style, nightly entertainment by Gli Amici and singer Maha.

SPORTS

Yoga lessons

For fitness and slimming Kuwait International Hotel offers yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday from 8.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 am to 11.30 am. For more information contact Kuwait International's Recreation Department at 2530000 ext. 8150 or Tanya at 5626529.

Kuwait Rugby

BMW Rugby Sevens Tournament Thursday, May 3, 2.00 pm onwards. All players and spectators welcome.

Thursday, May 17: 3rd Annual Fun-Run.

Thursday June 6, Oval Ball. If you would like details, information on any of these please contact S. Hill 5391720, G. Adams 5644533, R. Houston 5658435.

CINEMA

Al Andulus
Arabic film

Al Salmiyah
Hall booked

Al Hamra
Born Killer

Drive-in
Arabic film

Al Firdous
Gharana

Fahadheel Open
Eeswar

Fahadheel
Arabic film

Al Jahra
Rambo III

Granada
Hall booked

Sulstikhat
The New Gladiators

Jleeb
Man on Fire

Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

9.30 Opening with the Holy Quran

9.45 Cartoon serial

10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)

10.30 Arabic serial

11.25 Bedouin serial — Souliyan

12.25 News in Brief and closing down

EVENING

4.00 Opening with the Holy Quran

4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)

4.30 Cartoon serial

5.00 Cultural programme

6.00 Historical serial — Muslim judges

7.00 Songs

7.15 Cultural

8.30 Good evening

9.00 News in Arabic

9.45 Weekly programme — Shabakat

Al Telefizyon

10.15 Daily Arabic serial

11.00 Arabic film — Resalat Gharani: Starring: Fareed Al Atrash

12.45 News in Brief

12.50 World Today via Satellite

1.15 Closing down

KTV 2

6.00 Opening — announcement & Holy Quran

6.10 Mickey and Donald: A cartoon series for children

6.30 Hotshot: A female professor in computer science is kidnapped on her arrival with her daughter in New Zealand. She is compelled to work on a programme for a gang of criminals.

7.00 Beyond 2000: Tracking laying — amphibious vehicles for hard works... Brain mechanism and programming personal computers. Development of ice-skating gear... Advanced solar energy stations in Spain.

8.00 News in English

8.30 The Science Edition: Towers and skyscrapers as sight-seeing and tourism centres... Technology and entertainment machines.

9.00 Booker "Bete Noir": For the second time the beautiful widow inherits the wealth of her dead husband... The insurance company has a good reason to suspect the case and orders Booker to investigate on the matter.

10.00 Cine Club: Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz "Dog Day Afternoon"

12.00 News in Brief

12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

Netherlands National Day

Ambassador of the Netherlands and Mrs Veling held a reception at their residence Monday night to mark their country's National Day. Pictures show the Velings greeting the ambassador to the USSR and Mrs Ernest Zverev and (top) ambassador Veling greeting the Indonesian ambassador and Mrs Djamiluddin Joeda.



BUSINESS & FINANCE

Seoul to attack real estate speculation

Steps to bail out sinking stock market

SEOUL, South Korea, May 1, (AP): In a move to save South Korea's stock market from imminent collapse, the government decided early today to attack rampant real estate speculation.

The government will force conglomerates, especially securities and insurance firms, to sell real estate held for speculation, officials said.

Businesses that do not comply with the government's demand face punitive taxes and a cutoff of bank loans, they said.

The government hopes that proceeds from the sales will be channelled into stocks and that inflation, fanned by real estate speculation, will cool.

At President Roh Tae-Woo's instruction, 11 economic ministers gathered Monday for an emergency mid-night meeting. It was presided over by deputy Prime Minister Lee Seung-Yun, who is also economic planning minister.

Apparently encouraged by the government's move, the composite

price index of the Seoul Stock Exchange, which had hit an 18-month low Monday, bounced back by 14.40 points, or 2 per cent, to 703.06 points by 11:50 am today.

But some observers were sceptical, saying among other things that it would be difficult for companies to sell their land in time to bail out the stock market.

On Monday, panic selling pulled down the composite index by 31.71 points to 688.66 points, its lowest since

Oct 13, 1988.

Monday's loss, the biggest one-day fall ever, aggravated already widespread fears that the stock market was heading for collapse. The index had at that point tumbled by 219.93 points, or 24 per cent, since the start of the year.

The South Korean economy has been sagging because of the won's appreciation against the US dollar, steep wage hikes and political and labour unrest. Exports, the main engine of the South Korean economy,

declined 1.4 per cent in the first quarter of this year from a year ago.

The government has announced a series of pump-priming measures since March 17, when Lee was installed as deputy prime minister in a cabinet shake-up aimed mainly at managing the economic crisis.

Today, in response to the government measure, leaders of six national economic and business organisations met and decided to make efforts to

revive the distressed stock market, agreeing that the entire South Korean economy would collapse if the stock market failed.

The government's decision marked a reversal of its policy of non-interference in the stock market. Lee himself had reiterated the policy only last Saturday, when he said the government would never intervene in the market. He said then that government intervention in the past resulted in fattening institutional investors.

Gulf trio may favour \$18

Saudi Arabia seeks higher crude prices

GENEVA, May 1, (Reuters):

Saudi Arabia, responding to

allegations that it helped under-

mine the market by pumping too

much crude, said today it was

unhappy about a 25 per cent slide

in prices and wanted a recovery.

The Oil Minister, Hisham

Nazer, made the statement on

arrival in Geneva for emergency

talks of the Organisation of the

Petroleum Exporting Countries

(Opec). The meeting was called

to decide on cuts in excess output

which are needed to end a glut

hitting prices.

The Saudis are alleged by oth-

ers in the 13-nation group to have

been among those breaking man-

dated output quotas. Some

delegates say Saudi Arabia, a

traditional pricing moderate,

may have decided that energy

costs were rising too fast earlier

this year and needed a touch of

the brakes.

Reporters asked Nazer if he

was happy with current weak

prices and he replied: "No, of

course not."

"We want them higher," he

said. But asked by how much, he

would only say, "that is a very

good question."

Opec's declared goal is an

average spot market price of \$18

per barrel for a basket of seven

key crude oils.

That equates to about \$20 for

gasoline-rich West Texas Inter-

mediate, the US benchmark

crude.

The Opec basket itself reached

\$20 last December when icy

weather drove up US heating fuel

demand, but it is now down

around \$15.50 under the weight of

excess supply.

Western industry executives

say the Gulf trio may favour

keeping the average around \$18

through 1990, whereas more

'hawkish' Opec producers have

talked of raising the declared tar-

get higher than that.

The emergency Opec talks,

called to stop the price retreat

turning in to a rout, formally

start tomorrow.

Intense pressure was being

brought on Saudi Arabia,

Kuwait and the United Arab

Emirates to lead a round of out-

put cuts.

Opec President Sadek Bous-

sena of Algeria said the organisa-

tion would have to cut one to 1.5

million barrels per day, depend-

ing on where ministers reckon

actual total Opec volume is now.

Latest industry estimates of

Opec output suggest a fall by

about 500,000 barrels from a

recent peak at 24 million.

But Iraq's Issam Abdul-

Rahim Al Chalabi told reporters

he thought Opec might have to

cut below 22 million — "for me

the lower the better," he said. Iraq

wants higher world prices.

Delegation sources have

floats the idea of a five per cent

cut in total Opec volume. The

problem is deciding what num-

ber to cut from and whether the

big quota-breakers should cut

most.

That may sound fair to debt-

laden Third World sellers like

Algeria or Nigeria or to founder

members Iraq and Iran which are

frantic for revenue to reconstruct

after their eight-year war.

But the Saudis, Kuwaitis and

the UAE can argue that the

quota system is unfairly weight-

ed against them since it forces

them to shut in so much of their

huge production capacity.

Their interest also lies in keep-

ing a lid on prices to avoid ignit-

ing Western inflation.

Kuwait ready to contribute to an Opec-wide cutback

GENEVA, May 1, (Agencies): Opec oil ministers

gathered today for emergency talks aimed at giving

a quick boost to sagging prices by curbing wide-

spread violation of official production quotas.

Top officials said "voluntary" cuts in above-

quota cheating by some of the biggest of the 13

organisation members would be a stop-gap

measure for May and June.

A new overall Opec output ceiling, individual

quotas and target reference price for the second half

of 1990 will then be handled at the regular mid-year

ministerial conference in Geneva at the end of June,

they said.

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Khalifah has

indicated that his country would be prepared to

contribute to an Opec-wide cutback provided other

producers do the same.

MEES said Saudi Arabia would probably follow

suit, provided it was not asked to go below its

current quota level of 5.38 million barrels a day.

A cutback of five per cent from those three

producers would amount to almost 500,000 barrels

a day. But it was not clear what commitment was to

be expected from Iraq and Iran, both major

producers but pumping under quota at present, or

Nigeria and Venezuela, who are both above quota,

the newsletter said.

Dr Subroto of Indonesia, secretary-general of

the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries,

confirmed that the 1st half Opec ceiling of 22

million barrels daily would remain unchanged for

now.

"We will look at the current market demand and

price situation and see what can be done to improve

prices," Subroto told reporters.

"The first-half ceiling will not be altered and a

ceiling for the second half will be discussed in June,"

Subroto told reporters.

The emergency session was opening tomorrow

sometime after the scheduled 10 am (0800 GMT)

arrival of Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza

Aqazadeh, Opec officials said.

Ranking delegates for their part said the objective

was "voluntary" cutbacks in actual current

output by members pumping above their official

quotas.

"What would thus represent 'reduced cheating' "

would hold for May and June and aim at strength-

ening prices by bringing Opec output down closer

to the official level, thus mopping up the glut on

petroleum markets.

Individual quota reallocations would be left for

the mid-year ministerial conference starting in

Geneva between June 25 and 29, a high Gulf official

said.

Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Bousena, the

current Opec president, convened the emergency

talks opening tomorrow and proposed restraints

on output cheating in May and June as a means of

giving prices a fast boost.

"There is no intention and indeed no proposal to

modify the 1st-half official production ceiling of 22

million barrels a day," the Gulf delegate said.

Arab League seeks more technical aid

US joins final declaration

UNITED NATIONS, May 1, (AP): After several

weeks of negotiation, North-South contention and

compromise, the United States today is expected to

sign on to a General Assembly declaration on

helping stagnated Third World economies.

The US decision to sign the declaration would

avert an open confrontation between industrialised

and developing countries, and a divisive public

vote.

The General Assembly, which has been delayed

for three days because of tough behind-the-scenes

bargaining, will convene today afternoon to adopt

a final declaration by consensus, without a vote.

US diplomats said a compromise was reached in

late-night negotiations yesterday between the

United States and Western nations on one side and

the Group of 77, which represents non-aligned and

developing nations on the other. The final draft was

not officially released, but US diplomats said the

US government generally was satisfied.

US diplomats said the major problems were

resolving differences over required debt relief,

required official development assistance and the

environment.

The diplomats, speaking on condition they not

be identified, said the biggest stumbling block was

a section on debt relief, urgently sought by develop-

ing nations to ease the crushing burden of debt and

interest payments to the West.

The United States objected, they said, to being

forced to give relief, which already is part of US

programmes. "We felt we should not be forced to

give relief and we wish to keep flexibility in giving

relief within our broader government interests,"

said one US official.

The United States and Western nations also

objected to calling on multilateral institutions, like

the World Bank and International Monetary

Fund, to play larger role in debt forgiveness and

relief. The United States says these matters must be

decided by the institutions themselves and calls the

institutions the primary vehicle for aiding Third

World economies.

Here are some excerpts from speeches during the

UN special session on economic development:

Singapore: Chan Heng Chee, Singapore's

ambassador to the United Nations, compared

current economic conditions to the difficulties

countries faced during the depression of the 1930s

and during post-World War II reconstruction. He

said vast regions were rescued from poverty by

economic innovations, including the Marshall Plan

that channelled billions of dollars in aid to Western

Europe from 1948 to 1952.

"What we need is the launching of a third

brilliant innovation of this century, by inter-

national leaders with vision, based on a concerted

international effort," he said.

Arab League representative at the United Nations,

stressed that there must be a balance between the

interests of the public sector and private interests.

"As we ought to avoid too much government, we

must also avoid too much privatisation," Maktoud

said.

He added, "the need for the public sector in

developing societies to inject constraint on cor-

ruption, abuse of power and elitism remains upper-

most in the plans of their leadership."

Maktoud said industrial nations should allocate

more funds for development assistance. He also

called for more technical assistance for Arab coun-

tries with heavy debt burdens and urged bilateral

negotiations aimed at writing off some of the debt.

International Monetary Fund: Michel Camdessus,

managing director of the IMF, said that although

inflation, debt protectionism continue to plague the

international community, there have been indica-



Helmut Kohl
Industrial fair

Kohl to open conference

BONN, May 1, (Kuna): The largest international industrial exhibition will be inaugurated in Hannover tomorrow and will be attended by more than six thousand companies and establishments from 51 countries.

Under the theme of "The best of high-tech," the exhibition will be open till May 9.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will deliver the inauguration speech in attendance of Belgian Queen Beatrix and a huge crowd of political, economic and businessmen.

Three seminars on developing political and economic relations between the European countries will take place during the eight days of the exhibition.

Plan to set up joint company

LUFTHANSA and Aeroflot are setting up a joint company to modernise and expand Moscow's Sheremetyevo 1 Airport. An agreement on the formation of the joint company was signed in Moscow recently by Lufthansa chairman Heinz Ruhnau and Aeroflot chairman Vladimir Potapov.

Heinz Ruhnau said the joint venture was a pioneering project in air transport and business co-operation between the two countries. He told a press conference in Moscow that further projects were in the pipeline.

The German partner in the project will be the airport Moscow Lufthansa and Partner GmbH, a Lufthansa led consortium consisting of AEG, the Frankfurt Airport Company (FAG), Noell GmbH (Salzgitter AG) and the Dresdner Bank. The joint company will plan, update, expand and operate Sheremetyevo 1 and subsequently other airports in the Soviet Union.

The Moscow project, totalling DM 750 million, encompasses construction of a new passenger terminal, an international freight terminal, a maintenance hangar and a Penta Airport Hotel. Extensive new handling facilities are also planned.

The German and Soviet partners are each putting up 50 per cent of the equity of the joint-venture company. Most of the borrowed funds will be provided on a DM-basis by a bank consortium headed by Dresdner Bank.

Cigarette prices up

CAIRO, May 1, (Reuters): Smokers in Egypt were told on Wednesday they would have to pay more to continue their habit.

No official announcement was made but retailers told buyers that prices rose by up to 30 per cent. A packet of the popular Cleopatra brand would now cost 1.2 Egyptian pounds (45 cents), up from one pound (38 cents).

Prices of foreign brands made under licence in Egypt were also raised.

ASB profits up

BAHRAIN, May 1, (Reuters): The Bahrain-based Arab Saudi Bank (ASB) said its net profits in 1989 rose to \$2.4 million, 24 per cent up on the previous year.

ASB said it had earmarked \$1.45 million for bad loans provision in 1989 against \$125,000 the year before.

Total assets jumped to \$157 million on December 31, 1989 compared with \$125.26 million the previous year.

The offshore bank said it would pay a \$1.8 million dividend to shareholders.

Unprofitable enterprises will be closed

Economic reform is Gorbachev's priority

MOSCOW, May 1, (UPI): While Lithuania's secession drive rivets the world's attention, Mikhail Gorbachev is girding up for his most Titanic struggle yet — over real economic reform that will cause unemployment and raise prices, risking massive consumer unrest.

"This is the most serious piece of business undertaken since perestroika began," said Yuri Osipyan, a member of Gorbachev's new presidential council.

Despite five years of partial reforms that have made "perestroika" an international term, Gorbachev has held back from radical steps such as unleashing prices that would allow the market and not central planners to determine what will be produced and at what cost.

Such a lunge toward the market would bring Gorbachev into conflict with the bulk of the population, who are sure to vent their anger over the end of guaranteed low prices. Many prices, like the 5-kopek, or 8-cent, subway ride, have not changed in 50 years.

But rather than watch the country con-

tinue its agonising economic slide — economic growth fell 1.7 per cent in the first quarter of 1990 — Gorbachev has positioned himself to cross his economic rubicon toward a market economy.

A host of articles foreshadowing the major economic turn still squeamishly avoid using the term "market," preferring the euphemism "planned market," but newspapers have little doubt it will cause pain.

"Unprofitable enterprises will be closed and unemployment will increase fast," the Izvestia government newspaper said March 30. "It is unclear whether the population will reconcile itself to such shock therapy."

Pavel Bunich, deputy chairman of the parliamentary committee on economic reforms, indicated that workers at unprofitable state enterprises, estimated at 13 per cent of the total, will fall victim to the reforms.

"With the switch to the market, unemployment in the USSR may affect 10 million people, but the adoption of a new law (on unemployment) will enable up to 75 per cent

of them to be reabsorbed," Bunich said.

Bunich also said the market will set 70 per cent of the prices "in the not too distant future," but that the government of necessity would control the prices of key goods. No details were given.

Any major change in prices will pit Gorbachev against Soviet pensioners and breadwinners, who know by heart the unvarying prices of milk, bread, meat and potatoes in state stores.

On their salaries of 200 roubles, or \$320 a month, they know their apartment costs 12 roubles a month. A litre of milk is 36 kopecks (there are 100 kopecks in a rouble).

Potatoes are 20 kopecks a kilogramme, and meat 2 roubles a kilogramme. Bread runs from 18 to 30 kopecks a loaf — so cheap that Gorbachev lamented in Murmansk two years ago that children used the loaves as footballs. Farmers even buy bread rather than grain to feed cattle.

"Probably the only thing the populace has assimilated from the pro-market propaganda of the last few years in the press

is that the transition to the market will cause a monstrous increase in prices, like in Poland," economist Larisha Pyasheva said in Izvestia.

Gorbachev directly addressed publicly anxiety on price rises in a journey last week to the city of Sverdlovsk in Russia's industrial heartland. He reassured workers at the massive Uralmash Heavy Industry plant that prices would not be raised without warning.

"People are tossing out the idea that someone wants to ... up and change the prices, do shock therapy. Don't believe it," Gorbachev told workers in the city, which overwhelmingly chose populist Boris Yeltsin in March elections to Russia's parliament.

Gorbachev's dilemma, however, is that he must slash subsidies that keep prices of staples low or see an already yawning budget deficit surge completely out of control, fuelling runaway inflation that is already at least 10 per cent.

Budget deficits have galloped from an average of \$32 billion a year during 1979-1985 to at least \$154 billion in 1989, with a hoped-for 1990 slice to \$90 billion already being declared unrealistic by the Soviet economic press.

Without a bond and securities market to finance the debt internally or a convertible currency to export it, like the United States, the Soviet Union has had to resort to the printing press. Twice as much money was printed in 1987 as in 1986, representing a whopping four times the average printed in 1979-1985.

With its value officially set at \$1.60, the ruble fetches about 7 cents on the black market, or 15 roubles to the dollar. Its real value is probably higher, but it cannot be determined because of state set prices.

The unceasing issuing of roubles props up salaries, supports failing enterprises and lays for the subsidies, while the centrally planned economy cannot put out enough goods at the correct prices to absorb the deficit.

"We have consumed far more than we have produced all these years because of the leaders of our economy, the central planners, financial specialists and the ministers (of industries)," the economist Pyasheva wrote.

The country is awash in roubles, and although twice as many consumer goods were produced in 1989 as in 1986, long lines form at stores, in part because of the pent-up buying power. The state has increased special sales of goods at plants to rid the streets of unsightly lines.

To stop the purchase of gold by the ruble-flush public, financial authorities recently doubled the price of the precious metal. But the public has \$480 billion in the bank — an entire year's purchasing power — and probably half that much in mattresses and socks at home, the Economic Press has said.

To sop up the "ruble overhang," as it has come to be called, Gorbachev has stated the first stage of the new reform is to stabilise the market, but the public translates that as higher prices.

Legislators condemn Bush administration

Singh urged to resist US trade demands

NEW DELHI, May 1, (UPI): Indian lawmakers united despite their political differences Monday and urged the government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh not to buckle to US pressure to implement trade reforms.

Legislators in the upper house of parliament, or Rajya Sabha, took turns condemning the Bush administration for maintaining India on a list of unfair trading partners under legislation known as "Super 301".

The US administration removed Japan and Brazil from the list Friday, making only India liable for retaliation if it does not show signs of meeting American concerns by June 16.

Lawmakers described the US

action as "unfortunate" and "sheer blackmail."

"The entire house agrees with the sentiments that under no circumstances should India bow down to US pressure," said Najma Heptullah, chairman of the Rajya Sabha and a member of the opposition Congress (I) Party.

"The US administration's step in singling out India under Super 301 is a ploy to blackmail India in view of the acute foreign exchange crisis being faced by it," said N. Thulasi, a member of the Telugu Desam Party, one of five components of Singh's minority National Front government.

He said Washington was

exploiting New Delhi's foreign exchange shortage as leverage to gain greater investment opportunities in India, which is potentially one of the world's largest markets for US multinationals.

Kapil Verma of the Congress (I) Party said that under no circumstances should the government drop its refusal to open talks with Washington on trade friction under the threat of retaliation.

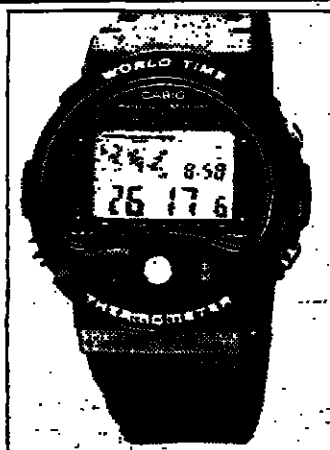
In retaining India on the Super 301 list, Washington cited New Delhi's policies of barring foreign insurance companies from its \$3 billion market, imposing export requirements on foreign firms and requiring all companies to purchase local

components before allowing them to be imported.

Trade ties between the world's two largest democracies have blossomed over the past five years, with two-way commerce crossing the \$6 billion mark in fiscal 1989-90. India is estimated to have run up a trade surplus of nearly \$1 billion.

The United States in mid-1989 cited Japan, Brazil and India as unfair trading partners under Super 301.

The provision called for negotiations to be held with the named countries over a period of one year under threat of retaliation by Washington if no progress was made.



WORLD TIME/TEMPERATURE TS-100

Digital watch with built-in thermometer, temperatures

THE Casio TS-100 incorporates the latest sensor technology plus Casio's own LSI design technology to create an innovative new timepiece that includes a built-in thermometer function as well as the time and average temperatures for 23 cities around the world.

The built-in thermo-sensor automatically measures and displays the current temperature every two minutes, as a numeric value and a bar graph. The watch automatically adjusts the readout to reflect changes in temperatures. Up to 24 temperature readings, one for each hour, can be stored in memory.

The world time and temperature function shows the current time in 23 cities around the world. In addition, the monthly average high and low temperatures for these cities are pre-programmed in memory, and can be displayed along with the time.

The location of the currently selected city is indicated by a flashing point on a world map shown on the display of the watch. The TS-100 also features five alarms, a timer and stopwatch functions, and it is waterproof up to 100 metres.

Oil and gas discovery

SANAA, May 1, (Reuters): North Yemen said today it had discovered more oil and gas, northwest of the oil-rich Marib area.

Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmed Ali Al Muhani gave no details on the new discovery, 200 km (125 miles) east of the capital Sanaa, but estimated the country had 5.5 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves.

Radio Sanaa said Muhani was speaking after a visit by President Ali Abdullah Saleh to refining gas installations in safer which began production recently.

North Yemen became an oil exporter in 1987 and now produces around 190,000 bpd.

South and North Yemen last month signed an oil exploration agreement with five foreign companies to explore a 2,200 sq km (850 square miles) area between Marib in the north and Shabwa in the south.

Move to monitor businesses

Task force to be created

WASHINGTON, May 1, (Kuna): To keep US businesses competitive globally, a special intelligence task force will be created to "monitor" foreign businesses, CIA director William Webster said.

In remarks to a university audience, released by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) yesterday, Webster said: "It is the job of intelligence to examine what is occurring, the forces at play and the ways that actions abroad can affect our national security interests."

"It is the job of intelligence to provide information that will help our policymakers reach that goal," the CIA chief said.

He also told students at the University of Missouri the CIA should help "eliminate the playing field" of international business to learn about core areas like nations' foreign economic capabilities, technology levels and trade strategies.

Webster warned that technology increases were crucial in keeping the US competitive, noting Japan has made major inroads in microchips and other technologies the US used to be the world leader in.

Moreover, he said the US should do more of what foreign competitors were doing of late: forging "international linkups" between nations to acquire technology ... and gain access to foreign markets.

Currently, the US has some such joint ventures like one between Texas Instruments and a Japanese steel company for microchip production.

Taiwan groups join for China investment Petrochemical project

TAIPEI, May 1, (Reuters): Two of Taiwan's biggest conglomerates and an Indonesian group have agreed to invest in a multi-billion dollar petrochemical project in China, the Economic Daily News reported today.

The newspaper said Taiwan's Formosa Plastics, the island's largest private industrial conglomerate, would join with the Tuntex Group and the Sanlin Group, owned by Indonesian Chinese, in the huge project in Xiamen on China's southern coast.

Company officials were not available for comment on the report because of the Labour Day holiday.

Previous published reports said Formosa Plastics' side

of the venture would be worth up to \$7 billion, by far the largest ever Taiwanese investment in China.

The company has not confirmed details of the project, although it has admitted that its officials have been in China to investigate opportunities.

The newspaper said that under the agreement, Formosa Plastics would make certain plastics and petrochemical products while the other two groups would build chemical fibre factories.

It said the companies would wait to announce the agreement until Taiwan's government established a clear policy on investment in China.

Gulf Bank enhances services

WITH its latest press campaign, The Gulf Bank is catering for various needs and various market segments, introducing and enhancing services and facilities to customers, showing a firm commitment to always finding new ways to help.

To help customers cope with their finances during the holy month of Ramadan, customers of The Gulf Bank with current loans were more than relieved to know that the bank has granted a grace period for April's loan payments, interest free as a special recognition to consumer loans customers with regular repayment record.

New consumer loans applicants also enjoyed April's grace period. The last Ramadan special offer came in appreciation of the heavy expenses incurred by families during the month and The Gulf Bank, again, expressed its way of always finding new ways to help.

For Ramadan, The Gulf Bank has arranged to keep open selected branches for full banking service during the evenings of Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, from 8 - 10 pm, another way of helping clients cope with shifting business hours during the holy month.

To coincide with helping customers and non-customers cope better with the expenses of Ramadan, The Gulf Bank has also for the market segment of savers a great incentive by offering them the highest interest rates on KD and 10 other major currencies on its Golden Investors, Kuwait's only money market account.

With an annualised compound rate of 7.76 per cent savers can still earn the highest rate offered in the market on Kuwaiti dinar savings and withdraw

whenever they need the money, which is more advantageous to customers than keeping their money blocked in fixed deposits for as long as 90 days.

For other investors who are looking for higher, longer-term earnings, The Gulf Bank is still offering its recently launched 5 Japanese and Far Eastern Trusts which offer diversification in the Far Eastern market sectors, with an initial investment of as little as \$1,000.

The Gulf Bank, more than any other bank, takes a direct and more active interest in the ways each one of its customers plans his daily or long-term personal finances. Whether it is to cope with financial needs or to improve the earnings on savings, and/or investments.

The Gulf Bank has developed its services and products in such a way to play an active role, as a leading financial institution, in the lives of individuals, corporation and the economy at large.

Banking in the 90s on service excellence and finding more and different ways to help. The Gulf Bank stepped up its press communications with the public. Whether it is banking convenience, product and service enhancements and innovation, The Gulf Bank confirmed again its leadership and commitment to "finding new ways to help."

The bank's Ramadan offers, whether they were meant to help customers cope with their finances or to guide them to a more planned saving and investment approach in their financial outlook reflects innovative thinking and leadership... a relationship of partnership.

Govt takes steps to bring down inflation

Brazilians split over Collor's shock therapy for economy

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 1, (AP): President Fernando Collor de Mello's six-week-old economic plan has shocked the rich, but the poor welcome the relief it has brought from record 4,850 per cent inflation.

"I had eaten meat in so long, I'd forgotten what it tasted like. Now I can afford it twice a week," said Dery Rosa Pereira dos Santos, 25, a housemaid who lives in a shantytown neighbourhood in Rio's poor north zone.

Collor announced the "new Brazil" plan on March 16, one day after taking office as the country's first democratically elected president in 29 years. It set an 18-month freeze on savings deposits of more than \$1,200 and a limit on withdrawals from money market funds of \$600 or 20 per cent of an account, whichever was greater.

The move froze about \$115 billion, 80 per cent of all bank deposits, and the resulting money crunch quickly reduced inflation.

Collor also cut spending, implemented new taxes, and promised to sell many of Brazil's 188 state firms to eliminate the \$31 billion federal budget deficit.

While there is some dispute over the real rate of inflation for April — the government said it was zero, but several independent institutions say prices rose around 25 per cent — all agree the threat of "hyperinflation" is gone.

"Food and medicine are cheaper, and the bus fare stopped rising every week. I've been able to save a little money the past month," said Mrs. Dos Santos, a mother of two who commutes two hours to her downtown job.

The plan produced a surge of spending for items such as housewares and cheap appliances.

"Our stores in poor areas are selling about 10 to 15 per cent more. Our outlets in middle-class and wealthy areas report stagnant sales, or even a small drop off," said Fernando Martinho, spokesman for the Telerio chain of appliance stores in Rio.

Mrs. Dos Santos said if inflation remained low she hoped to buy a mattress for her young children, who now sleep on blankets on the floor of the family's concrete hut.

The lower classes have little sympathy for the 10 per cent who had bank accounts frozen, and who now are jokingly referred to in the press as the "nouveau poor."

Brazil economy, the largest in Latin America, is also one of the world's most unequal. More than half of the country's 150 million people live on less than \$150 per month, while the richest 10 per cent live in luxury.

"I applaud him for that (the bank freeze). While I had no money to buy bread, the rich threw food in the trash," said Nilda Modena da Silva, who works as a janitor and supports

her two children on the minimum wage of about \$75 per month.

But Mrs. Da Silva was not entirely happy with the plan. The government's estimate of no inflation in April means salaries will not rise this month.

"Prices are down but I don't believe in zero inflation. How can he (Collor) freeze a mother's salary?" she asked.

While middle-class opinion seems roughly split, the rich are bitter. A survey by the major firm Research International found the country's wealthy felt a sense of "loss and humiliation" and reduced social standing after the government froze their assets.

Antonio Emirio de Moraes, the president of the Veterinarian Group, Brazil's biggest private company, sullenly told the host of a nationally televised talk show that he considered emigrating after having \$500 million caught in the bank squeeze.

Many business leaders felt betrayed after backing Collor against socialist Luis Inacio Lula da Silva in last December's election. They angrily say the President has failed to keep campaign promises to implement free-market style economic reforms.

"We are living in an economic dictatorship. Never in the history of this country has there been so little economic freedom," said Alexandre Barros, a consultant to local and mul-

tinational businessmen.

"The name of the game is no longer to be an efficient entrepreneur but to be a political operator who can pressure the government into releasing your money. There are no market criteria at all," he said.

Organised labour, normally at odds with business, also is up in arms about Collor's economic measures.

Official unemployment has leapt from 3.5 per cent to over 9 per cent since March 15. The huge foreign-owned auto plants that ring Sao Paulo, Brazil's biggest city and industrial centre, are virtual ghost towns with up to 80 per cent of employees on enforced holiday.

"This plan will lead to a depression far worse than the hyperinflationary spiral which it was supposedly going to save us from," said Jose Olivo Miranda, a board member of the Central Workers Union, the country's major labour federation representing some 12 million workers.

Hardest hit of all was the construction industry, which laid off an estimated 300,000 workers since the plan was announced.

The layoffs have led thousands of migrants to the industrialised south to return home. In mid-April, buses from Sao Paulo to the poor northeast were packed with 1,700 passengers per day — twice the normal number.

"I don't even have enough money left to buy a shot of rum," Francisco de Souza, 25,

Honda, Rover sign accord

Honda Motor Co., Limited and Rover Group Limited have taken a major step toward further strengthening their long-standing collaborative relations by signing an agreement providing for holding each other's shares, it was disclosed recently.

The signing took place last Saturday (April 14) in New York between Honda president Tadashi Kume and Rover chairman Sir Graham Day.

Formal completion of the arrangements will take place this week. Honda will become a 20 per cent owner of Rover's equity, which comprises £520 million in total. At the same time Rover, through one of its group companies, will take a 20 per cent share in the equity of Honda's manufacturing arm in Britain, known as Honda of the UK Manufacturing Limited (HUM), located in Swindon, west of London.

HUM is currently capitalised at £60 million, which will increase to £370 million by 1993 with 20 per cent of the increased equity being given to the Rover Group Company.

To make up for the balance, Honda will pay a sum of £30 million in cash. To reflect the cross-shareholding, each company will have one non-executive director on the other company's board. Shoichiro Irimajiri, a Honda senior managing director, has been named to the Rover board, while John Towers, product development director of Rover, will sit on the HUM board. HUM's plant, capable of producing up to 100,000 cars a year, will start manufacturing an entirely new model passenger car late in 1992.

Honda and Rover intend that the HUM plant will produce two distinct versions of the car for sale through the dealer networks of Honda and Rover respectively, primarily on the European market. Swindon produced cars will meet European requirements on local content.

The collaboration between Honda and Rover dates back to 1979, when they entered into an agreement enabling Rover to manufacture cars under licence from Honda.

During the decade that followed, the two companies have worked closely together with each other in a wide variety of fields such as product development, production, component supply, technological interchanges and procurement of materials and parts.

The cross-shareholding agreement ushers in a new era in Honda-Rover relations, as it symbolises their commitment to each other on a long-term basis.

World conference

Gold in the new decade

ANOTHER topical and high-level World Gold Conference brings together an outstanding international panel of speakers to be chaired by Robert Guy, Director of N.M. Rothschild and Sons and Dennis Susskind, Partner at J. Aron & Co/Goldman Sachs. The conference will be held on June 25 and 26 at Venice.

A major feature of this year's programme will be the central banker panel and the role of gold in the international financial system. The gold price and new instruments have been selected as the subjects for extended forum discussion.

Dr. Lamberto Dini, Director-General at Banca d'Italia will give the opening address followed by Dr. Carlos L. Stals, Governor, Swiss National Reserve Bank and Emilio Garofalo Filho, Director of International Reserves Operations at Banco Central do Brasil who will assess gold and its future.

Dr. Kurt Richebacher, Publisher of 'Currencies and Credit Markets' Newsletter will discuss gold's involvement in European monetary arrangements. An Australian assessment of mining will be given by Hugh M. Morgan, Managing Director of Western Mining Corporation and Ned Goodman, Chairman of the Board of Corona Corporation, and Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer at Dynamic Capital Corporation will give a North American assessment.

The gold business in Germany and central Europe will be discussed by Rolf Will, Senior General Manager and Treasurer at Dresdner Bank. Developing corporate patterns in the gold business will be reviewed by Jeffrey A. Nichols, Managing Director of American Precious Metals Advisors. J.G. Cluff, Chairman of Cluff Resources will speak on entrepreneurship in the gold business.

The panel on new products will include Sidney Gold, Managing Director, Philipp Brothers Inc., Munosuke Inoue, General Manager, Precious Metals Division at Mitsui & Co. and Trevor Robinson, Head of Derivatives at Credit Suisse First Boston.

Timothy S. Green, Consultant, Gold Fields Mineral Services, Brian Marber, Director, Brian Marber & Co. Alfred Schneider, First Vice President — Precious Metals Department, Swiss Bank Corporation and Vittorio Gori, Managing Director, Gori and Zucchi SpA will be members of the panel looking at the gold price to 1995.

The closing address will be given by David Pryde, Senior Vice President, J.P. Morgan. For further details, please contact: Caroline Huxley, Financial Times Conference Organisation, 126 Grayson Street, London SW1Y 4UJ. Tel: 01-925-2323, Telex: 27347 FTCONF G. Fax: 01-925-2125.

Milken may get tax break

\$400m fine

NEW YORK, May 1, (AP): Michael Milken's agreement to fork over \$400 million for defaulted investors may not cost the admitted felon as much as it seems. Uncle Sam could end up footing part of the bill.

Shrinking globe hurting Hollywood exotics

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): There was a time when the movie capital offered domestic audiences exotic beauties from all over the world, adding spice and romanticism to films.

A few imported actresses became great stars, among them Greta Garbo and Ingrid Bergman from Scandinavia, Luise Rainer and Marlene Dietrich from Austria and Germany, and Sophia Loren from Italy.

If the English by any stretch of the imagination could be called exotic, the list would be much longer.

The British notwithstanding, foreign actresses flavoured the Hollywood scene on a regular basis. Often they came and went quickly, but they managed to give the impression the movie capital was at least cosmopolitan.

There were Lupe Velez and Dolores Del Rio from south of the border and, of course, Carmen Miranda.

Maria Schell came from Austria, Lilli Palmer from Germany and Liv Ullmann from Norway. France sent over Brigitte Bardot, Simone Simon, Leslie Caron and Catherine Deneuve.

In an austerity move the Bulgarian government is selling off its fleet of Soviet-built Chaika limousines, the black lace-curtained monsters used only by senior communist party officials and visiting dignitaries until the hard-line regime fell last November.

With its eight-cylinder, six-litre motor, its body-work modelled on American cars of the chrome-laden 1950s, and its cavernous interior, the virtually hand-built Chaika is a collector's dream.

"We're getting quite a lot of interest from abroad, particularly from the United States and Western Europe," Georgi Nikolov, who is running the sale, told Reuters. The US

dollar price was in five figures," he said, without specifying.

For 30 years, since the model first appeared in 1962, the vision of an approaching Chaika, in Bulgaria and elsewhere in East Europe, was the signal for police to leap into the road and stop all traffic to allow it to pass.

"So this is what caused our traffic chaos," a Bulgarian murmured as he was able to carry out his first close inspection of the exclusive car in a former secret police garage where dozens were on show during April.

The government, faced with a budget deficit of \$500 million and a \$10 billion foreign debt, has decreed that in future only the nation's top four officials are entitled to a limousine.

The rest will have to make do with more modest Soviet-built Volga and Lada saloons. The government is also selling off a large

fleet of recent-model Mercedes cars used by senior government and party officials, Nikolov said.

However interest in these is expected to be limited to Bulgarians with access to hard currency, since the cars are not adapted to run on the lead-free petrol now becoming the norm in West Europe.

The organisers are not expecting much domestic interest in the Chaikas. "It is a case of 'If you ask about the petrol consumption, you can't afford it', one official said.

The government has not yet decided what to do with a number of exotic items such as a hunting-jeep "with an interesting political background," as Nikolov put it.

Former Bulgarian communist strong-man Todor Zhivkov, now in disgrace facing charges of corruption and abuse of power, was an avid hunter.

Some of the Russian-made Chaika limousines once used by Bulgaria's communist officials now being sold off to Western collectors.

Architecture

WASHINGTON, (CSM): When architect Fay Jones was 16, he walked into a high school theatre and saw a movie that changed his whole life. It wasn't a film starring Cary Grant or Clark Gable; it was a 1938 technicolour movie starring the Johnson Wax Building in Racine, Wis.

"I saw the camera moving up those columns and the light flowing in, the camera shooting up those curving walls. And I thought—Gosh! I'd only seen things like that in 'Back Rogers' in the funny papers and 'Flash Gordon', and these were centuries away," explained Jones. "So here's something that's another world, and it's being built. And of course it's the first time I'd ever heard the name of (the building's celebrated architect) Frank Lloyd Wright."

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After receiving the American Institute of Architects' 1990 Gold Medal award for his outstanding designs in February, he mused about how that movie brought together the two roads in his life. Growing up as a boy in Eldorado, Ark., he loved to draw, although that art seemed too delicate to him. He also loved to build things—lean-to's, tree houses—out to salvaged wood, which seemed pretty crude stuff to him.

But the movie voice-over "talked about not only the technical aspects of construction, the building part of it, but that this was a work of art. So here it was coming together—two things that I liked to do: Here's art (he thumps the metal table) and construction (another thump on the table), and it's coming together in something called architecture."

Jones talked to the press over a luncheon of chicken Kiev and salad at the American Institute of Architects. It was the afternoon before he received his gold medal, plus a couple of verbal bouquets from the Prince of Wales, the royal architectural critic who was the keynote speaker at the AIA awards dinner.

Prince Charles noted: "Fay Jones' buildings speak of what Ruskin termed 'the poetry of architecture'—a poetry arising out of buildings in harmony with their natural surroundings. They seem to evoke the amplitude of nature—without damaging nature. (Jones's) Thorncrown Chapel was built in the woods from timber carried to the site by hand. Not one of the trees around it was touched."

Thorncrown Chapel received an AIA Honor Award in 1981 (Jones's first of two).

Eunice Fay Jones talked about Thorncrown and some of his other characteristic buildings with this reporter in a quiet room at the AIA.

What strikes the viewer about buildings like it and others illustrated at the AIA is the soaring quality of Jones' work, the sense of aspiration, looking up. Did he design them with that consciously in mind?



Some of the Russian-made Chaika limousines once used by Bulgaria's communist officials now being sold off to Western collectors.

Bulgaria sells collectors cars

SOFIA, (Reuters): Anyone interested in buying one of the world's most exclusive cars, able to seat nine, weighing two tonnes and using 30 litres of petrol per 100 km (eight miles to the gallon), should head for Sofia.

In an austerity move the Bulgarian government is selling off its fleet of Soviet-built Chaika limousines, the black lace-curtained monsters used only by senior communist party officials and visiting dignitaries until the hard-line regime fell last November.

With its eight-cylinder, six-litre motor, its body-work modelled on American cars of the chrome-laden 1950s, and its cavernous interior, the virtually hand-built Chaika is a collector's dream.

"We're getting quite a lot of interest from abroad, particularly from the United States and Western Europe," Georgi Nikolov, who is running the sale, told Reuters. The US

dollar price was in five figures," he said, without specifying.

For 30 years, since the model first appeared in 1962, the vision of an approaching Chaika, in Bulgaria and elsewhere in East Europe, was the signal for police to leap into the road and stop all traffic to allow it to pass.

"So this is what caused our traffic chaos," a Bulgarian murmured as he was able to carry out his first close inspection of the exclusive car in a former secret police garage where dozens were on show during April.

The government, faced with a budget deficit of \$500 million and a \$10 billion foreign debt, has decreed that in future only the nation's top four officials are entitled to a limousine.

The rest will have to make do with more modest Soviet-built Volga and Lada saloons. The government is also selling off a large

fleet of recent-model Mercedes cars used by senior government and party officials, Nikolov said.

However interest in these is expected to be limited to Bulgarians with access to hard currency, since the cars are not adapted to run on the lead-free petrol now becoming the norm in West Europe.

The organisers are not expecting much domestic interest in the Chaikas. "It is a case of 'If you ask about the petrol consumption, you can't afford it', one official said.

The government has not yet decided what to do with a number of exotic items such as a hunting-jeep "with an interesting political background," as Nikolov put it.

Former Bulgarian communist strong-man Todor Zhivkov, now in disgrace facing charges of corruption and abuse of power, was an avid hunter.

Building a work of art

By Louise Sweeney

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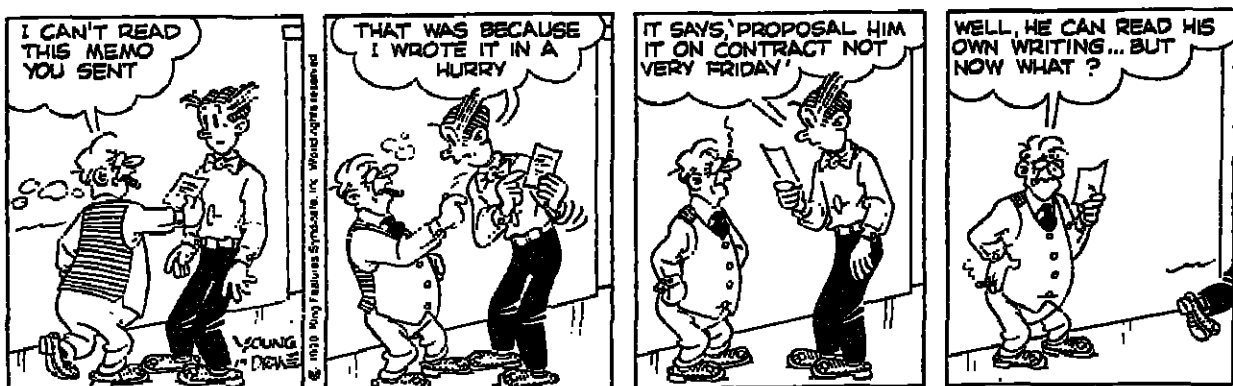
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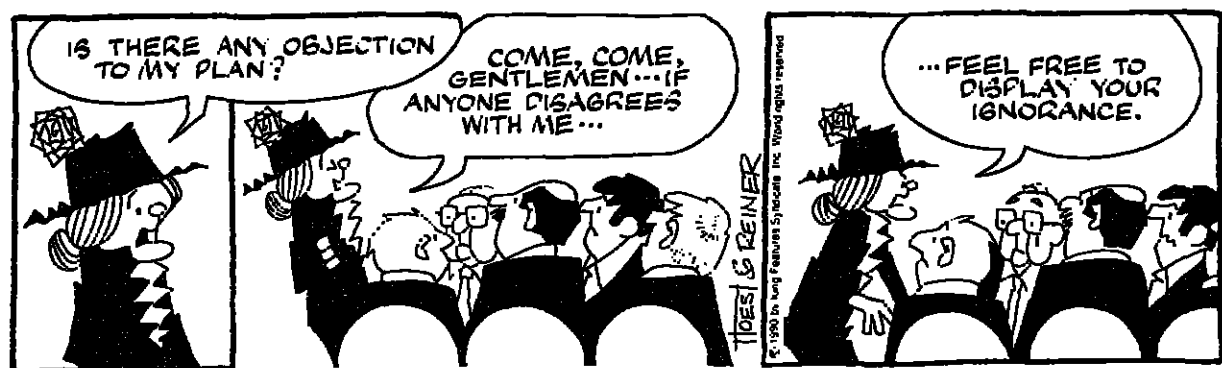
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



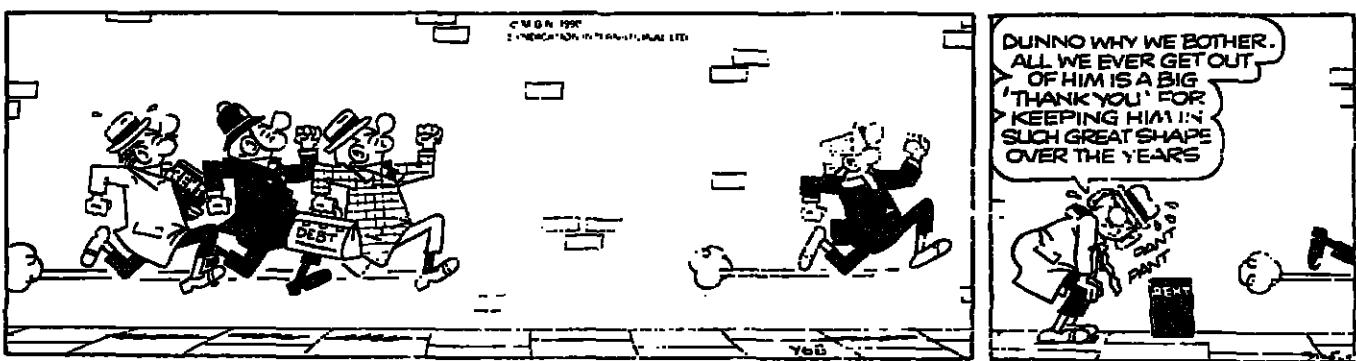
BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



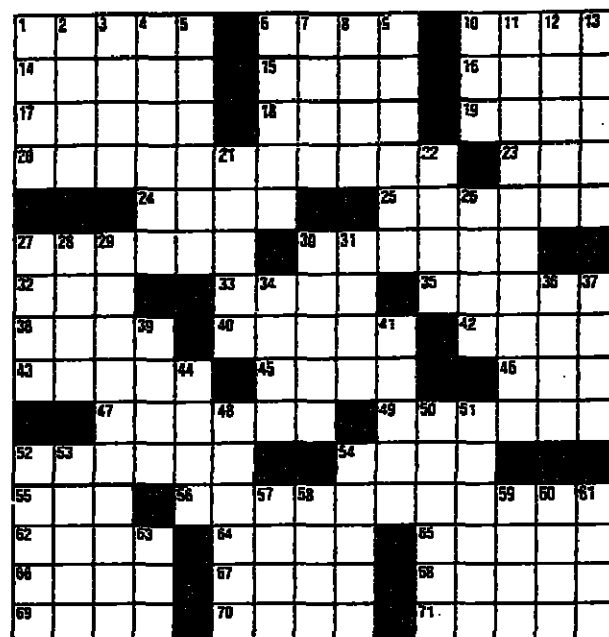
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shuff



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Spectrum
 5 Singing insect
 10 Captain of the Pequod
 14 Last letter, to Plato
 15 Hindu fire god
 16 Stem joint
 17 Malign
 18 Target
 19 Handel highlight
 20 Filmflam
 23 What CPA's crunch
 24 Sock repair
 25 Stall
 27 Treat in a hush
 30 Loath
 32 Sahara wear
 33 Capital of Manche
 35 Easy mark
 38 — forward: proposes
 40 Rose part
 42 Genuine
 43 Flower product
 45 Opposed
 46 Three — match
 47 Director May
 49 Radiation counter inventor
 52 Touch
 54 Jitterbug's dance
 55 Bat wood
 56 Pandora's box, in a way
 62 Fundamental particle
 64 Godsend
 65 Lord or lady, e.g.
 66 Uncommon
 67 Famous cookie baker
 68 Community character
 69 Part of AD

DOWN

71 Adjust
 1 Wow!
 2 Biathlon equipment
 3 Painter Jan van der —
 4 E African republic
 5 Pertaining to a foot bone
 6 "— Train": Ward Bond series
 7 Eager
 8 Crimp
 9 Mainstay
 10 Miscellany
 11 Texas Christian athlete
 12 Senor's sign-off
 13 Beauty's partner
 21 Extort
 22 Penods
 26 Turnult
 27 Polynesian cloth
 28 Border
 29 Zermatt backdrop
 30 By oneself
 31 Wayne or Worth
 34 Except
 36 Berlin contribution
 37 1950, e.g.
 39 Mail event
 41 Word with cap or club
 44 Foolhardy
 48 Line on a weather map
 50 Spring celebration
 51 Kindle
 52 Director of "It's a Wonderful Life"
 53 Thai, for one
 54 Recognize
 57 Capital of Italia
 58 Corner
 59 Old English letters
 60 Blackthorn
 61 Prove
 63 Recent: Prefix

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

BASS BASTS BALK
 ATTLI APEAK ORAN
 TRIG NOLLE TIRE
 HIGHANDLOW TAKE
 POSSE ENERO
 ERIC DIMPLE
 ESAU ELKE OSIER
 RESPIRE TITULAR
 GLEAN SCAN PENS
 SLANTS OSSA
 DOLOR ITEMS
 HOLD UPSIDEDOWN
 OLIO MEADE FRATE
 SLAW PRIER TALE
 TARN SARAS SLED

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
 ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠72 A86 AJ1093 ♣732

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

2 ♦ Dbl ?

* — weak

What action do you take?

A.—It's simply a question of whether you want to continue the preempt by raising hearts or whether you would like to do something more constructive. Since it looks as if partner is going to be on lead, we would bid three diamonds as a lead-director.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ KJ8742 KJ6 ♣AK

What is your opening bid?

A.—An awkward hand. Your six-card major is moth-eaten, so the hand is not quite good enough for a demand bid. However, if you open one heart you will be faced with enormous rebid problems and could end up playing the hand from the wrong side. We would make the value bid of two no trump.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠6 AKQ10984 J952 ♣7

What is your opening bid?

A.—Your hand has eight playing tricks—seven in hearts and one in diamonds. According to the Rule of 2 & 3, that makes it worth an opening bid of four hearts, and that's the action we endorse.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠Q652 ♣74 ♠83 ♣AJ652

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ 2

Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

A.—Although partner's pass shows a minimum opening bid, the fact that he did not support spades makes it highly likely he has at least four clubs. Under the circumstances, we would compete with three clubs.

Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠A765 ♣9 QJ762 ♣J73

Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A.—You have a hand of limited defensive potential, but good trick-taking possibilities with spades as trumps. Jump to four spades, a two-way action. You might make it or, if you don't, you could be shutting out an opposing game or partial.

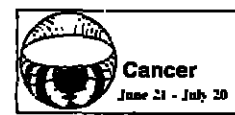


"Which finger is it?"

YOUR STARS



Aries
 March 21 - April 20
 You will feel rather disinclined to do anything very much and will have to pull yourself together. Avoid eating anything too sweet or spicy. Without being frivolous do not take everything so seriously. Be a little more cautious.



Cancer
 June 21 - July 20
 You do not like to be kept waiting, so do not keep others waiting either. Do try a bit harder to get things right the first time. Beware of falling into a trap. Be tactful.



Libra
 Sept 23 - Oct 22
 Try to imagine what it would be like to be in someone else's shoes. And do count your blessings rather than bemoaning your fate. Avoid acting as though you were years younger, but do not think you are "too old" either. Be generous.



Capricorn
 Dec 21 - Jan 19
 Take your partner's opinions and feelings into account before deciding on a course of action. Make sure you do not break any speed limits, and keep within the laid down safety limits too. Do not spend more than you can easily afford.



Taurus
 April 21 - May 20
 If you think that you are the only one who knows what is right then you are wrong. Do not underestimate other people's feelings. Make sure you do not neglect certain domestic chores. Be receptive to new ideas.



Leo
 July 21 - Aug 21
 Listen more closely to what others are saying and do not be so fond of the sound of your own voice. You must not change your mind too often, but there is no point in being obstinate. Take good care of your personal hygiene. Be polite.



Scorpio
 Oct 23 - Nov 22
 You should have the courage of your convictions and you should not do anything contrary to your principles. Avoid allowing your prejudices to get in the way of objective judgement. Do not permit a hobby to become an obsession. Be fair.



Aquarius
 Jan 20 - Feb 19
 You are liable to try to do too many things all at once — refrain. Do not allow yourself to fall foul of an old friend. Take care that you do not do anything that might give offence. Be matter of fact.



Gemini
 May 21 - June 20
 Something you had high hopes of will prove to be rather disappointing. Your lucky numbers are 1 and 38. You will not have time to do all you would like to do so choose your tasks carefully. Respect other people's opinions. Be reliable.



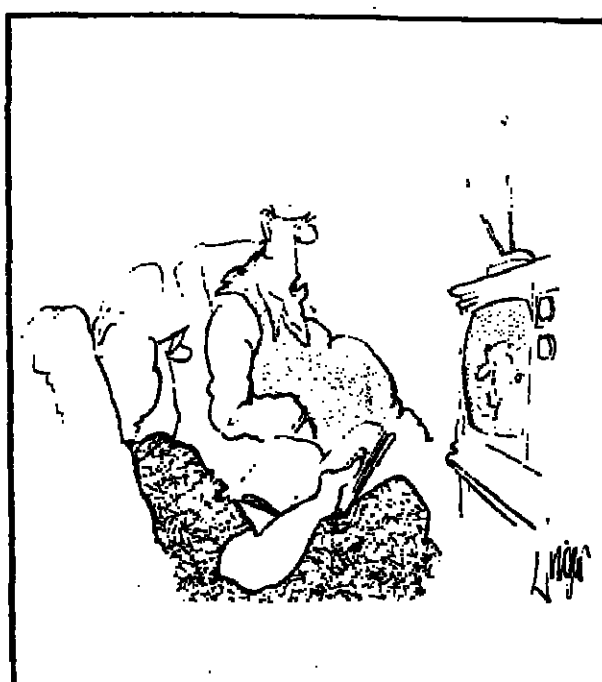
Virgo
 Aug 23 - Sept 22
 You will tend to tire rather easily and should do all you can to conserve your energies. Something that you have been trying to learn will now become much easier. Do not expect others to do for you what you would not do for them. Be tolerant.



Sagittarius
 Nov 23 - Dec 21
 You are more liable to make mistakes and should be on the lookout for them. Everything is liable to take longer than you had hoped so make sure you do not waste any time. Try to avoid gaining or losing too much weight. Be considerate.



Pisces
 Feb 20 - March 20
 Do make allowances for the fact that things are more expensive than you had hoped they are. Make sure that your facts are not out of date. Work hard, but do not live a life of all work and no leisure. Be reliable.



"There's a 200-foot monster outside and he tells her to bolt the door."



"Get down. I'm knitting this stuff for the girl next door."

Rocky meets a real challenger

HOLLYWOOD (UPI): If the fights in *Rocky V* appear more realistic than the first four Sylvester Stallone bouts, it may be because his opponent this time is a real-life heavyweight.

The pug is Tommy Morrison, 20, who is underfitted in his handful of professional fights. Of course the realism isn't all due to Morrison. Some of the credit has to go to his acting coaches, Richard and Leslie Brander, who taught him how to beat the camera.

In the first three *Rocky* pictures, Stallone chose to go with actors who had some degree of expertise in the ring. Both Carl Weathers and Mr. T. estab-

lished film careers based on their performances with Sly.

Dolph Lundgren, a towering Swedish engineering student, made his acting debut playing Stallone's Russian nemesis in *Rocky IV*.

It seems fair to surmise that Tommy Morrison — whose plans to become world heavyweight champion — will some day ride the Rocky-horse to stardom, providing his features aren't rearranged in the prize ring.

In any event, the Brander coaching team is convinced the young heavyweight is a better natural actor, and certainly a better fighter than Weath-

Fighter learns to act

ers, T and Lundgren combined.

Last December the two began working with Morrison two weeks before production began on *Rocky V*, which, incidentally, is still shooting.

The Branders, who helped coach the likes of Kevin Costner, Teri Garr, Farrah Fawcett and Alan Thicke, are convinced that Morrison's potential as an actor at least equals his chances as a pugilist.

Asked if it were easier to teach an actor to fight or a fighter to act, they said it all depends on the individual.

"There are some other boxers in *Rocky V* who haven't demonstrated

anything near the aptitude for acting that Tommy has," Leslie said.

"Tommy has an instinctive talent for acting," Richard agreed. "We both feel he will go on to become a successful actor no matter what he does in the ring. He has a natural charisma and energy that jumps right off the screen."

"He's playing a character close to himself, a wholesome young man from Kansas City who comes to the big city hoping to become heavyweight champ," Leslie said. "It helps, of course, that he's playing a boxer. A craft he knows a lot about and he's very good at."

"He has the problem of doing the fight scenes without actually connecting with his punches. He had to be trained to box for the camera and to fight like an amateur for the early sequences when he is a street fighter."

"When we first saw his screen test, we believed Tommy had a lot of potential as a film actor."

Both Branders work on the set with all the actors, including Stallone, helping director John Avildsen. They call themselves the director's third eye, watching each take to insure that Avildsen's vision of the scene is fulfilled.



Stallone and Morrison filming the main fight scene in *Rocky V*

Snapped up



SIZZLING: An early picture of the gorgeous Marilyn Monroe

Memorabilia sold for song...

By Lynda Black

IT was the sale of the century.

The Beatles topped the charts, Ringo Starr's car was a runaway success and Marilyn Monroe proved a real pin-up.

For at auction giants Christie's a sale of top pop memorabilia brought the money and the fans pouring in. And in many cases the knock down bids had them singing with joy.

First there were the photographs that launched Marilyn Monroe's career which were snapped up by a group of Canadian residents for a bargain £14,100.

The set included a full album of 27 pictures, many of them unpublished — yet as they celebrated their success, they admitted that they hadn't a clue what they were going to do with the unique collection.

"We had no idea our bids would be successful, so we never discussed what we would do with the photographs," said publisher Greg Cheadle, who bid for the photographs with a hairdresser, lawyer, pharmacist and salesman from Lake Superior.

"When we came down from the clouds we'll have a meeting and decide what to do."

The group of friends, who gathered around Cheadle's telephone at 7.30 a.m. Canadian time to place their bids of eight lots, paid a fraction of what they expected.

The pictures show Monroe at 19, when she was plain Norma Jean Dougherty and before she dyed her hair platinum blonde.

They were taken in June 1945, by US Army photographer David Conover, who had been ordered to take publicity shots of women doing war work. The commanding officer who ordered the pictures was Ronald Reagan.

Norman Jean, who was putting propellers on miniature aircraft, so impressed Conover that he took her out for her first modelling sessions.

Even in Olive Drab, against the gloom of the factory back-drops, Marilyn proved a natural.

So successful was their photographic session, that Conover was late getting back to the Army after his two weeks leave. He was packed off to the Philippines as punishment. Before leaving American soil he sent off his undeveloped films to a fellow photographer.

They never arrived — lost in the post. Miraculously 27 survived.

Another exclusive item up for grabs for the first time was the only official recording of the Beatles' last concert at Candlestick Park, on August 29, 1966.

Paul McCartney, lead singer with the super group which sent the teenage world into a screaming frenzy during the '60s, had instructed their press officer, Tony Barrow, to record the concert, although even he was not aware this was to be their last.

The recording, dubbed 'the first official bootleg', sold for £1,000.

Meanwhile fans, keen to get a soak in the bath used by Yoko Ono and the late John Lennon had to splash out £500.

Those who fancied motoring in a pop star status symbol has a chance to bid for Ringo Starr's Mercedes 280 SE Coupe — a collector's item in its own right.

The regal red coupe, which was owned by the Beatles' drummer between 1980 and 1984, and has a 200 bhp V-8 engine, capable of 0-100 kms in under 10 seconds, fetched a staggering £8,500.

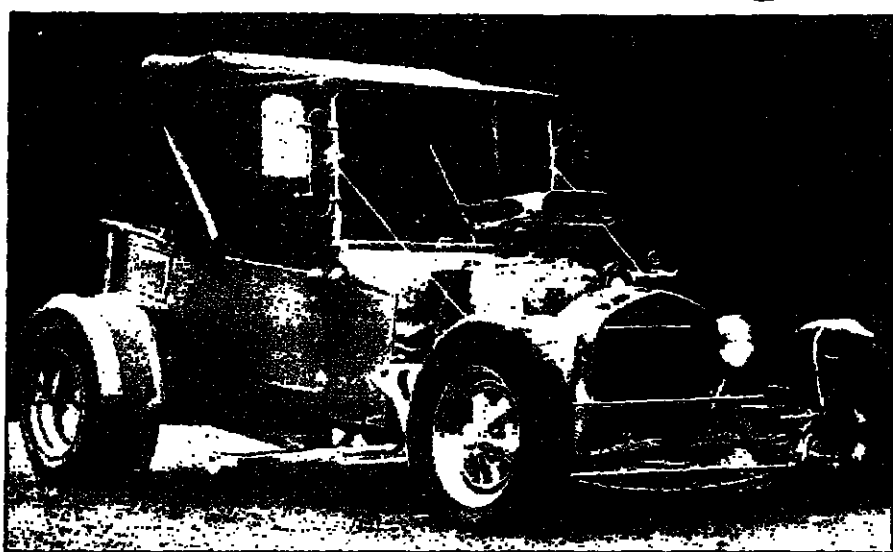
But if the Beatles now seem a little old hat, there was plenty at the auction to please new fans of the pop world too. Topping the bill was the original artwork for the sleeve of the banned record, 'God Save the Queen', by the controversial punk band, The Sex Pistols, which fetched £750.

Lulu's wedding dress from her marriage to Bee Gee, Maurice Gibb, was also snapped up for £750, and some rare recordings by Elvis Presley went for a song at £950.

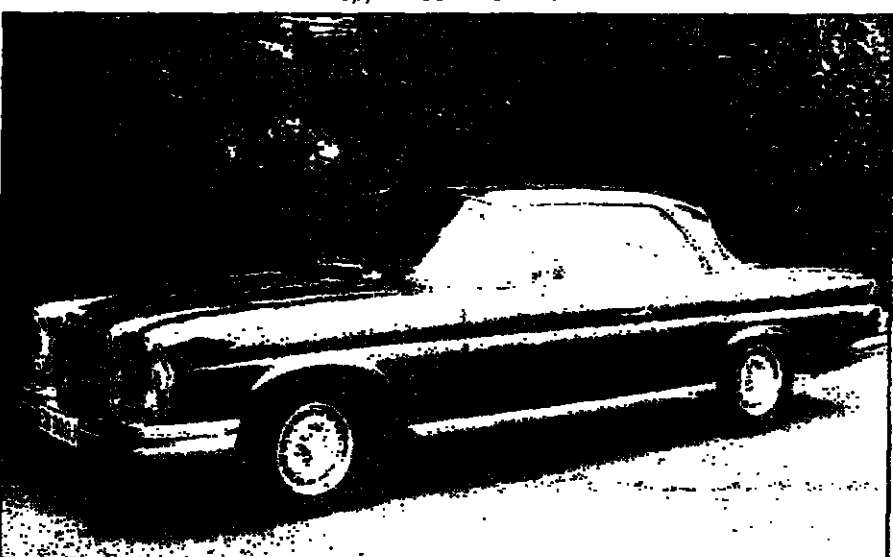
A custom car lover snapped up a Ford Model T, imported to Britain by brilliant guitarist Jeff Beck, in 1969. The five litre V-8 car, which went under the hammer for £9,000, was described in Custom Car as "One of the fastest street rods in the country."

Nicknamed the 'Boston Strangler', the car was bought by Led Zeppelin's John Bonham, from Beck, and featured in the film, *The Song Remains The Same*.

In fact Memorabilia freaks from around the world jetted into London for the auction which raised more than £182,000 in just three and a half hours.



Hot rod: The Boston Strangler, imported by Jeff Beck in 1969, and later sold to Led Zeppelin's John Bonham



Dream machine: The 1970 Mercedes Benz 280 SE Coupe, once owned by Beatles' drummer, Ringo Starr



Bath time: John Lennon and Yoko Ono, pictured by the famous circular bath they had installed at their Ascot home

Industrial economies threaten Asia's wildlife

By Jonathan Thatcher

JAKARTA, (Reuters): Asia's abundant wildlife is under threat from the continent's fast-growing industrial economies which have the wealth and desire for the exotic and rare, putting many species ever closer to extinction.

Japan buys more endangered species than anyone else, says Tom Milliken, director of the environmentalist organisation "Traffic" in Japan.

Traffic monitors the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on wild flora and fauna (CITES) which keeps long lists of species in which international trade is either banned or restricted.

Its implementation is the responsibility of the governments who have signed the convention, including most of Asia except Taiwan and North and South Korea.

Effendi Sumardja, Indonesia's director of nature conservation, who is trying to overcome his country's reputation for indifference to the trade in endangered species, largely blames the buyers.

"If people outside the country didn't force them they wouldn't do it," he says of local smugglers.

"There are people who need food for today," he said. "They don't think of the other consequences."

Sumardja is a major source of wildlife with about a fifth of all known bird species, thousands of varieties of fish, plants and reptiles and several hundred mammals.

Sumardja is putting much faith in planned legislation that will impose harsh penalties on illicit trading in wildlife and provide for enforcement teams including the military and intelligence forces.

The tougher approach has made Jakarta trader Sudarsono a little more wary but does not deter him from eagerly offering a visitor orangutans or a pair of birds of paradise. Such protected species can only be exported legally with the permission of the Indonesian president.

"Where do you want to send them? I can arrange to send them to Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan," said Sudarsono.

Sumardja has had his run-ins with environmentalists, especially over Indonesia's reluctance to put two types of turtles, used in large numbers here for religious rituals, on the banned list.

"We realise we need to do something to conserve these turtles... but don't shout at us. Come and watch and help us," he said.

Other signatories to CITES have kept certain species off the list.

Singapore, a flourishing centre for wildlife trade, still allows imports of protected crocodile skins, earning the wrath of Indonesia, which has banned all wildlife exports there until the island state stops buying the skins.

Japan has omitted a number of endangered and protected species from its list of banned imports for commercial purposes, allowing it to continue to buy whales, sea turtles and lizards.

There are signs of change in Japan, such as the demise of its ivory trade following the world wide ban on ivory trading.

"The Japanese... realised they had to give in on something," said environmentalist Maggie Suzuki. "They decided on the ivory trade rather than give up something important like tropical forests or whaling."

Milliken says the ivory ban is still a mixed picture and one concern is that trade could go underground.

Hong Kong, often marked as one of the villains of the wildlife trade, has made some progress, said David Melville of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

But Melville points to trade in orchids, where dealers get round the ban on export of species taken from the wild by simply calling them hybrids, which is hard to disprove.

Thailand is taking off not just as a supplier of endangered species but as a trading centre.

"Principally because of the poor implementation of CITES, Thailand has now taken over from Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan as the favoured destination in Asia of much illegal wildlife trade," a WWF report said late last year.

Thai species, such as Siamese crocodiles and several varieties of orchids, have been over-exploited to the point of extinction.

Sumardja, says that apart from tougher laws and enforcement, better education is vital, admitting it would be almost impossible to completely end smuggling in Indonesia, with its 13,000 islands.

Stars of the stage, screen and ballot box

SUPERSTAR singer-turned-actress Cher has announced another change of direction... into politics.

It is a route a string of actors from Ronald Reagan to Clint Eastwood and Robert Redford to Cher's former other half, Sonny, have taken before her.

But now it is the women who are taking the initiative. While Cher sets her sights on Congress, Oscar winner Glenda Jackson wants to become a British MP and Sophia Loren could be made a member of the Italian Senate for life.

Italian politics already has one unconventional Member of Parliament in the widely-admired shape of Ilona Staller, former porn star La Cicciolina (which roughly translates Sweetie Pie) who colourfully declared herself "a Green from the red-light district."

It was sexy *Never On Sunday* actress Melina Mercouri, now a Minister in the Greek Government, who led the way.

But before Cher and Ms Jackson decided to climb on the vote-wagon, stars like Vanessa Redgrave and Jane Fonda had not been reluctant to broadcast their views on political issues.

Cher and Glenda are now going one stage further.

Cher, who won an Oscar for *Moestruck*, outlines her qualifications. "I'll always tell the truth and I'll work really hard, which is more than I can say for every public official I know."

"I have boundless energy and I can't imagine that I can't do at least as well as most of those idiots."

Glenda Jackson, now 53 and a double Oscar winner for *Women in Love* and *A Touch of Class*, is prepared to put acting behind her in return for a seat in Parliament.

She says: "Of course I would have to give up acting — you can't be a part-time MP or a part-time actress. But I can't conceive it would be something I would miss much."

"I have a low threshold of boredom which is one of the reasons I find acting interesting — it stays difficult. I'm sure being an MP would be equally difficult and therefore interesting."

Cher, at 43 reported to be expecting her third baby by 30-year-old rock guitarist Richie Sambora, will not find an unreserved welcome wait-

ing for her.

California Congresswoman Barbara Boxer says: "You have to prove yourself constantly" while Colorado representative Pat Schroeder complains: "Congress is a very physical place. Male friends show their approval by punching you in the arm."

There are still only 29 women in Congress 70 years after the first one was elected. One issue that unites them across the political divide is the absence of a bathroom for them near the floor of the house.

Another battle for which Cher will be admirably equipped is the drive to have the gym made completely unisex. Cher will find that, although women may be able to use the elaborate equipment, they cannot change there. Their own facilities, according to one campaigner, are "10 hairdryers and a ping-pong table."

If Congress is a little like a locker room, a "Gentlemen's Club" is the equivalent complaint by the minority of women who have fought their way inside the British Government's predominantly male garrison of Westminster.

But if Glenda Jackson gets there, it will be by using campaign tactics rather different from those of the MP for Latina, 50 miles South of Rome. Ilona, 38, used striptease to block city streets and appeared topless on her campaign trail.

"Down with nuclear energy, up with sexual energy," she said.

And she claimed to be the only woman in the world to know all 69 positions in the Kama Sutra backwards and forwards. "I am bringing a little love to politics," she said in her victory speech.

Greek Culture Minister Melina Mercouri was one of the country's leading stage and screen actresses for 30 years. She also made documentary films and produced plays.

Melina, 63, was exiled from Greece for her socialist views under the colonels and her work was blacklisted. But the tide turned for the former star whose grandfather was a Mayor of Athens.

If Melina has a passion for changing the world, going into politics is not Sophia Loren's

own idea. It was her fans — half million of them — who signed a petition asking for her to be made a member of the Italian Senate for life. A tax-free £10,000 pension would go with it.

Yet it is only a few years since 55-year-old Sophia was so at odds with the government of her native land that she served 17 days in jail for tax evasion. And she and husband Carlo Ponti battled for 10 years to win back custody of their own art collection.

Jane Fonda has never let the lack of political platform hold her back when it came to making her views known.

She flew to North Vietnam and was pictured sitting on a Vietcong tank — before American opinion began to question the wisdom of the war there. It earned her the nickname Hanoi Jane and a lot of flak back home.

In a radio broadcast she asked US troops: "How does it feel to be used as pawns?"

Jane, 52, sank considerable time and money into the career of ex-husband Tom Hayden for the 16 years they were together. He won a California State Assembly seat in Sacramento with her help.

Now she is alone again and is planning to make a film about the five years Czechoslovakia's new President, playwright Václav Havel, spent in jail for his civil rights activities before the Communist government fell.

Vanessa Redgrave, too, has run campaigns for her revolutionary brand of politics in parallel with her acting career. She and brother Corin back the Marxist party formed in Britain two years ago after upheaval in the Workers Revolutionary Party, which had had their allegiance.

Her support for the Palestinian Liberation Organisation has also landed Vanessa in hot water. It took her a five-year battle through the courts to win £25,000 compensation after the Boston Symphony Orchestra scrapped concerts she was due to narrate in protest at Vanessa's views.

And last year there was speculation that Broadway had turned down a highly-praised London play that starred her for the same reason. Officially, it was because of the cost of transferring the production and the risk that New York

might not buy what London critics had raved about.

The actor who hit the political jackpot was Ronald Reagan, the President nicknamed Tallon Man because, no matter what went wrong around him, none of the blame seemed to stick to him.

He admitted: "There have been times in this office when I've wondered how you would do the job if you hadn't been an actor."

So well did he play the part that it gave both the Republicans and the Democrats the same idea — casting another actor in the role. Both parties thought Charlton Heston, who has played three presidents already, would be ideal to groom up for the real thing.

Heston, 65, turned them both down on the grounds that he just loves acting too much. He said: "I really could not accept never acting again in my life. I know it seems a trivial undertaking for a grown man to pretend to be other people but it absolutely fascinates me."

Other actors say the same for politics. Ralph Waite, hard-working father of seven on TV's *The Waltons*, has not set his sights on the White House — yet. But he has announced that he is a candidate for a Congressional seat in California.

The day Cher won her Oscar, Palm Springs elected Sonny Bono its Mayor, thrusting him into the limelight in a way he had not enjoyed since the couple split up two decades earlier. And almost at once showbiz offers began to pour in again.

It is no longer what he wants, Sonny, 54, says: "Too bad it took me so long to adjust my values."

He adds: "As far as our careers were concerned, Cher was the same as me if not worse. She was, and is, far more ambitious. I provided the vehicle and she was the performer. We were business partners and, as a result our romance went out the window."

When they split up, Cher seemed to win custody of the fan loyalty while Sonny became yesterday's man. "I found it very painful," he says. He went through a series of failed business ventures and romances.

The turning point came when he opened a restaurant in Palm Springs. It was there he met his present wife Mary and made his successful bid for political power.

Bono decided to run for Mayor after falling foul of the local planning authorities. He wanted to enlarge his restaurant, Bono's by adding a disco where he would host rock 'n' roll shows himself.

Another showbiz politician, Clint Eastwood, who ran for mayor after a similar thing happened to him, gave Sonny the idea. Bono said: "Clint did it and I went. 'Yeah, I can do it, too.'"

"The council was very silly about rules. They didn't want any new development. I decided to see if I could change things around here."

By the time he was elected, he was already learning the facts of life. "Politics is the least honest business I've ever been in," he said. "It makes showbiz look like high school as far as ethics are concerned."

Eastwood's term as Mayor of Carmel, California — water shortages and eating ice-cream on the pavements had figured in his election campaign — was a huge success.

So popular was the 58-year-old actor by the end of his term that he bowed out to return to full-time movie making against a backdrop of locals, sporting "Clint For President" T-shirts.

The actors who made his mark in the Rawhide TV series and became probably the richest man in Hollywood had, he said, had enough of politics — for now. But he may yet return to the campaign trail. "Never rule it out," he told the supporters who made his day by electing him the first time.

Robert Redford, 53, a Green campaigner years before it was fashionable, cannot be ruled out either.

He has considered it from time to time, between acting, directing and working with ecology and consumer groups. He says: "I keep questioning whether I should stay in the acting profession."

"I've always wrestled with the doubt that being an actor is not significant in itself, not of enough value."

Martin Sheen, 49, may soon have nowhere but politics left to go.



Ex-president Ronald Reagan. He couldn't understand how his predecessors coped with the pressures of the presidency.

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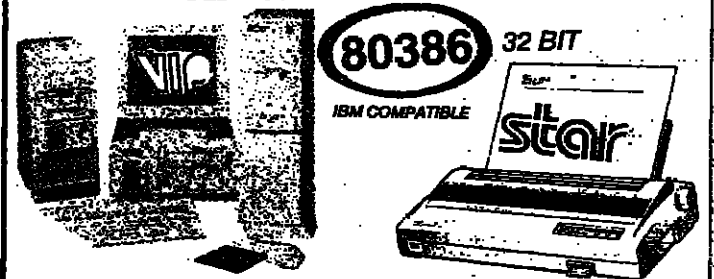
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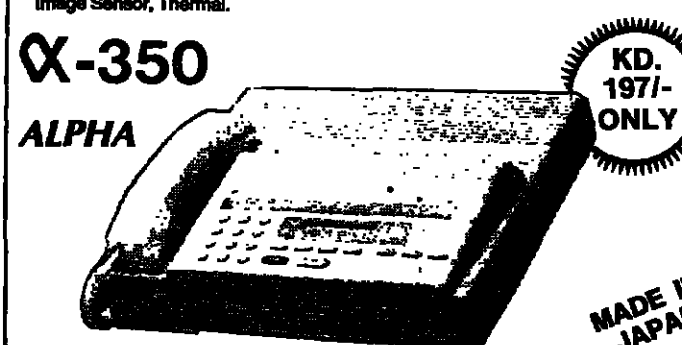
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QADISIYA, Area 9, Al-Hatten Street, House No. 28. One room with water and electricity for a family. Bus routes, 16, 18, 14, 37, 502. Contact Mr Sunny personally after 5 pm. (AT3-52416-3)

Kentucky Derby: two minutes worth \$50m

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky, May 1. (Reuters) The Kentucky Derby, which will last just two minutes, will be seen by up to 24 million American families on Saturday and generate more than \$50 million for the Louisville economy.

The 116th "Run for the Roses," at the Churchill Downs racetrack three miles (five km) south of the town features the top three-year-old thoroughbreds and is the first leg of the US Triple Crown — followed by the Preakness Stakes and the Belmont Stakes.

About 125,000 people are expected at the track. Some will pay up to \$600 for a seat on "Millionaires' Row", but the majority will pay \$20 to sit in the infield, drink mint juleps, wear funny hats and maybe even watch the race — an annual rite spring for college students.

The ABC television network, which has television and radio rights to the race in a multi-year package worth more than \$40 million, estimates that 24 million US families will tune in to at least part of the race.

Participation in the spectacle that peaks with the annual race is a year-round affair. The Kentucky Derby festival involves thousands of local volunteers whose focus is on the 10-day series of civic celebrations leading up to the racing card at the Downs.

The festival committee estimates one million people will take part in this event this year, generating about \$20 million worth of business for the local economy.

The 35-year-old festival, whose 1990 budget is \$2.5 million, has 80 events ranging from the annual city "Pegasus parade," to steamboat racing, concerts and free fireworks displays.

Radios
Tourists coming in just for Derby Weekend flood the nearly 10,000 hotel and motel rooms in Louisville and another 19,000 within a 60-mile (95-km) radius in southern Indiana and Kentucky, said Rick Haygood, marketing chief for the city's Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"There's a direct economic impact of \$36 million on the city just from derby tourists staying in hotels this one weekend," he said in an interview.

"That's not even counting the money spent by people who stay with relatives or friends, camp out or sleep in their cars. We've never calculated how much it brings in from the food business or local retailing."

Many Louisville hoteliers invoke the law of supply and demand, boosting room charges at least a few hundred per cent over normal rates.

The downtown Hyatt Regency charges up to \$2,400 for a three-night derby package in a suite compared with off-peak rates as low as \$700 for similar accommodation.

In addition governor Wallace E. Miller invites 4,000 of his closest friends to the Governor's Derby Breakfast on the morning of the big race and uses the state's allotment of derby tickets to entertain business prospects or celebrities.

But some business aren't totally enthusiastic about the derby. "It's a mixed bag," says Don Bogart, manager of the Bacon's department store chain, the city's leading retailer.

"Downtown business booms during derby because of the influx of tourists, but suburban store sales decline because everybody's participating in derby festival activities."

But Irv Bailey, chief executive of the Louisville-based insurance group Capital Holding, said "I entertain clients during the derby, so it's really more of a business activity for us."

Bailey added he doesn't really get to relax until three weeks after the derby. That's when the Kentucky Opera Association sponsors its annual steeplechase on a private farm across the county line.

Spencer-Devlin pulls out of Tour

LONDON, May 1. (Reuters) American Muffin Spencer-Devlin, disqualified from a women's golf tournament at Woburn, England last week, has withdrawn her application for membership of the European Tour and returned home, officials said yesterday.

"In view of this Spencer-Devlin is no longer involved with our tour and the matter is now closed," the Tour's executive director Joe Flanagan said.

"This is a sensible solution and we now hope that she makes a recovery from her present problems and a rapid return to good golf."

Jansher gets top world ranking

Dittmar stuns Jahangir



Dittmar gets his revenge

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, May 1. (Reuters) Pakistani's Jahangir Khan suffered a double setback yesterday when he lost his semifinal at the European Open Squash Championship and his world number one ranking.

Jahangir, who last week achieved a long-standing ambition by winning the British Open title for a record ninth time in succession, was replaced at the top of the world ranking list by compatriot Jansher Khan.

Dramatic

His second blow was delivered by Australia's Chris Dittmar who won their dramatic semifinal 15-9 15-10 4-15 13-15 15-9 after one hour and 44 minutes.

Dittmar was beaten with some ease by Jahangir in the semifinals of the British Open but the Australian looked determined to avenge that defeat as he dominated the first two games in Karlsruhe.

Jahangir fought back to win the next two and looked to have weathered the storm when he led 7-4 in the final game.

But Dittmar clawed his way back to level terms and finished the match in impressive style by winning the last six points from nine all.

Dittmar's opponent in today's final was to be compatriot Chris Robertson who defeated fellow-Australian Brett Martin 15-9 9-15 15-9 15-9 in 66 minutes.

Ludolf von Usslar, the promoter of the European Open, announced in Karlsruhe yesterday that he would guarantee prize money for the professional squash circuit to stage World Grand Prix finals beginning in December 1991.

The inaugural event will carry a prize fund of \$100,000 with the same figure set for 1992 and an increase to \$120,000 in 1993.

Circuit

The finals will be contested by the top eight men from the international Grand Prix circuit with the 1991 event likely to be held in Stuttgart.

"This ends a six-year search for someone to create a suitable climax to our Grand Prix circuit," said Roger Eady, executive director of the International Squash Players' Association.

Cosmos reach finals

COSMOS entered the finals of the Sharma Trophy by virtue of their 2-0 victory over Flying Arrows in the semifinals, played at the Ahmadi Grounds on Friday.

The Ramadan break played havoc with the players form and stamina as was evident in a lacklustre semifinals. There was no co-ordination between the players and it was a day of individual performances.

Despite this, Cosmos defence especially veterans Elias and Stafford played admirably and ensured that Flying Arrows skipper and dangerous striker Martin was totally marked while on the other hand the Flying Arrows defence was totally disorganised leaving huge gaps and Cosmos dangerous duo of Xavier and Fanchu total unmarked.

In fact, it was during one of these moments that Xavier dribbling past the mid field passed to an unmarked Fanchu who made no mistake beating the goalkeeper Issac on the wrong foot. Except for this unfortunate incident Issac defended his goal brilliantly and if it were not his good goalkeeping the score at half time would have been different.

After half-time, Flying Arrows seemed revitalised as they attacked from the start. Flying Arrows outside-left Nelson dribbled down the left flank and sent an apt cross but none of his team-mates could connect it. Immediately after this Martin dribbled into the striking circle only to be fouled. The resultant penalty corner was wasted.

Thereafter it was Cosmos all the way with Xavier and Fanchu going unmarked deep into the Flying Arrows defence. Flying Arrows were again in trouble. No less than 4 penalty corners were awarded to Cosmos but they could not convert any of them.

In the 18th minute of the second half, Cosmos Diago made space and passed to the unmarked Fanchu who dribbled past a defender and was about to take a shot at the goal when he was brought down in the circle by a Flying Arrows' defender.

Xavier made no mistake from the resultant penalty stroke and Cosmos cruised into the finals by a comfortable margin of 2 goals.

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Van Brabant wins seventh leg of Tour

SEVILLE, Spain. (AP) Benny van Brabant of Belgium outpedaled the main pack in a mass sprint to the finish line to win the seventh leg of the 45th Tour of Spain cycling race yesterday.

He edged out Malcolm Elliot of Britain in a photo finish. Van Brabant completed the 190-kilometre (118-mile) from Jerez de La Frontera in four hours, 29 minutes and 19 seconds.

The pack finished on their heels and included Manuel Gorrache of Spain, who kept the yellow jersey of overall leader, and the other main contenders for the gruelling 3,698-kilometre (2,292-mile) "Vuelta," as the race is known in Spain.

"It was very, very close," Elliot said after learning the results "that's life."

Said Van Brabant, a 30-year-old from Hasselt: "I followed Elliot's pace and succeeded in surprising him in the final metres."

"I'm not content with the victory in just this legs, and I hope to win more, especially the flat ones."

The leg was run over flat terrain. But fine gravel caused many flat tires, including two suffered by Pedro Delgado of Spain, winner of last year's race. The gravel also produced spills by Colombian riders Fabio Parra and William Palacios and Roberto Visentini of Italy.

Strong headwinds plagued riders all the way to Seville. However, there were many escape attempts, all nipped in the bud by the main pack, which pedalled at an average speed of 45 kms (27.9 mph), except for Joaquim Gomes of Portugal.

He spurred ahead, at times managing a lead of 3:37 minutes before being caught up with by the main pack after he staged a solo ride of 83 kilometres.

After a break for Friday prayers and lunch, Evergreen started their inning through Babar Chaudhry and Waqar Zaidi while Haider opened the bowling for Falcon. Haider was hit for 11 runs in the first over and in the next he was again smashed for 13 runs as Evergreen raced to 28 in just three overs. Waqar Zaidi was in particular very severe on the bowling, which lacked any penetration.

Both the batsmen, scoring well over required rate of 5.19 posted the hundred of the innings in 12th over and the partnership had reached 139 in 18th over when Babar was caught by substitute fielder off Tarique after having played a marvellous innings of 61, studied with a towering six and four hit to the fence.

Tarique struck again in the next over by shattering the stumps of Waqar Zaidi, when the opener was 71. His knock was highlighted by an excellent six and eight well-executed shots to the boundary. Tarique has his third success by removing Rafique Butt for 12 while Anjum Raza went for nine including a six. Bitu Singh and Sadaqat prevented any further loss and took Evergreen to the required total in just 32nd over of this 45 overs match.

Bitu Singh was 55 not-out including five boundaries and Sadaqat's 24 came with three fours. For Falcon, Tarique had three for 61 while Razzak got one for 57.

At the end of the match, A.K. Sengupta, director Tea Board of India in Kuwait presented the trophy to Evergreen's skipper Asad Baig and also presented the individual prizes to the players of both the teams.

The event was organised by Sajid Raza, secretary GCL and sponsored by Tea Board of India in Kuwait. Evergreen has won this trophy for fourth time since this tournament was started six years ago.

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Tyson (left) takes a jab at Foreman during a press conference. (Reuters wirephoto).

Tyson on comeback trail

NEW YORK, May 1. (Reuters) Maybe losing his title humbled him, or maybe it was just taking some time off to fly his birds and chase the ladies, but in any case the old Mike Tyson was back yesterday.

Tyson, at least at a news conference, was his smiling, wise-cracking, entertaining old self, defined by some as the pre-Robin Givens Tyson. Givens was the television starlet who was briefly and bombastically married to the ex-heavyweight champion.

Tyson was here promoting his June 16th comeback fight in Las Vegas against heavyweight journeyman and Olympic gold medalist Henry Tillman — 20-4 — whose chief credentials for the scheduled 10-rounder are his two victories over Tyson in the 1984 Olympic trials.

Tyson, 23, seems to have lost his sullen public mood along with the heavyweight title that James "Buster" Douglas took from him with a 10th-round knockout in February.

Tyson called his loss to Douglas "no big thing." "Sometimes you have a bad night. Hey, I had 37 good nights. I had one bad night."

Tyson refused to blame his stunning defeat on his corner which came under fire for their lack of experience and direction during the Douglas fight.

"It happened, it happened, big deal. The real reason I lost was because I didn't fight up to par," said a relaxed, smiling Tyson.

"It was just embarrassing," he said about watching the fight on tape. "That was a good moment to grab excuses, but you know you just got beat. When you lose a fight you loose because you (expletive) up. You say, God, you wasn't up to par ... you really didn't feel like fighting no more you just didn't give your best."

Tyson clearly enjoyed talking about himself, which was a sharp contrast to the last couple of years when he would answer a minimal number of questions before stalking off.

"I really learned a lot from that fight," Tyson said. "He fought well and I didn't fight at all. Regardless of the slow count (claimed by Tyson after Douglas was knocked down). I was getting smacked around pretty good."

"I know know not to abuse it. Once you abuse the gift that God gave you he'll take it right away. I was getting a little lazy. I was eating a lot (junk food)," said Tyson, who also denied rumours that he has been carousing since the defeat.

"I am not out there partying. I like ladies, I like girls. I drink champagne that can't even get a fly drunk," he said.

Tyson hinted that his new attitude came from being "humbled" by his loss and from taking some time away from the ring. "I just hang out, fly my birds," he said, referring to the homing pigeons he has kept for years.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball games

NEW YORK, May 1. (Reuters) Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday.

American League		
Oakland	6	NY Yankees 0
Baltimore	2	California 1
Boston	11	Seattle 0
Toronto	10	Cleveland 4
Milwaukee	6	Detroit 1
Chicago	5	Texas 2
National League		
Cincinnati	6	Philadelphia 2
Houston	6	Montreal 2
Atlanta	7	New York 4
San Francisco	8	L.A. Dodgers 4

Chitalda wins

BANGKOK, May 1. (Reuters) Sot Chitalda of Thailand retained his World Boxing Council (WBC) flyweight title when he won a unanimous points decision over Carlos Salazar of Argentina in a scrappy 12-round bout here today.

Macari arrested

LONDON, May 1. (Reuters) The former Scottish international and Manchester United soccer player, Lou Macari, was arrested in Britain today for alleged tax offences.

Hamburg tennis

HAMBURG, West Germany, May 1. (Reuters) First round results at the \$50,000 Hamburg Women's International tennis tournament (premier level) today: 16-Seed Martina Hantika (West Germany) beat Florenca Labat (Argentina) 6-4 6-4. Nicole Provis (Australia) beat 14-Radka Zrubakova (Czechoslovakia) 6-4 1-6 6-1. Nicole Jagerman (Netherlands) beat Elena Remach (South Africa) 6-4 6-4. Elena Pampoulova (Czechoslovakia) beat Martina Pavlik (West Germany) 4-6 7-6 (7-3) 6-2. Petra Langrova (Czechoslovakia) beat 10-Sandra Cecchini (Italy) 6-0 2-6 6-4. Amanda Coetzer (South Africa) beat Cecilia Dahlman (Sweden) 0-6 6-1 6-3. Silke Meier (West Germany) beat Anke Huber (West Germany) 6-0 6-2. Angelika Kanellakopoulou (Greece) beat Jo-Anne Faull (Australia) 1-6 1-6. Barbara Rittner (West Germany) beat Eva Krapf (Switzerland) 6-0 6-1. Julie Halard (France) beat Brenda Schulz (Netherlands) 3-7 6-0 6-1. Silke Frankl (West Germany) beat Nathalie Herremann (France) 6-1 6-1. Stacy Martin (US) beat Sabine Hack (West Germany) 3-6 6-4 6-1. Renata Baronski (Poland) beat Natalia Medvedeva (Soviet Union) 7-6 6-1. Laura Lapi (Italy) beat Louise Field (Australia) 4-6 6-3 6-1.

Cup technicians

ROME, May 1. (Reuters) Italian television technicians are threatening to black out some of the World Cup soccer finals in Italy this summer by going on strike. Technicians want an average increase of 360,000 lire (\$290) a month increase plus a productivity bonus.

Scottish star

GLASGOW, May 1. (Reuters) Advanced American surgery techniques may have saved the soccer career of Scotland and Rangers midfielder Ian Durrant, Rangers club doctor said today. Donald Cruickshank said an operation in California two weeks ago to transplant Achilles tendons into Durrant's right knee had passed off satisfactorily.

Hyderabad Festival

A FESTIVAL cricket match between veterans of Hyderabad will be played on the sports day in connection with the 40th anniversary of Hyderabad Decree at Jubilee Hills ground (behind Juleeb Ai Shuyoukh cinema) on May 4, 1990 from 2.00 to 5.00 pm. All players listed in the teams below should be present on the ground in their kits. For further details contact Tel. 4842578, 4843481, 5311443.

Golkonda XI: 1. Mr Aqueel (captain), 2. Dr N.V. Naidu (vice-captain), 3. Mr Zakiruddin, 4. Rafik Ahmad, 5. Mr Ali Barkatulla, 6. Mr Zaher Burni, 7. Dr Srinivasan, 8. Mr Sajjad Ali, 9. Mr Farhatulla, 10. Mr Bashir Khan, 11. Mr Mujeebuddin, 12. Dr Raouf, 13. Mr Anees A. Khan, 14. Mr Tazhar.

Channimar XI: 1. Dr Riaz R. Khan (captain), 2. Dr Shakeel Khan (vice-captain), 3. Mr Irfan, 4. Mr Ali Hyder, 5. Mr Nayeem Burni, 6. Mr Mukarram Khan, 7. Mr Mujeebulla Mulkarim, 8. Mr Tajji Hyder, 9. Mr Mohd H. Khan, 10. Mr Mirza, 11. Mr Imran, 12. Mr Hoshdar Khan, 13. Mr Akbar Ali Khan.

Bridge

RESULTS of the Sheraton Bridge Club game held last Tuesday.

N/S

1. Aurora & Askar
2. Tiab & Sherin
3. Mukerjee & Shah

Best mixed pair: Dona and Adel E/W

1. Reddy & Lalala
2. Lach & Greciana
3. Mrs Sapre & Desmond Pereira

A marathon game will be held on Friday, May 4, at 3.00 pm, at the Sheraton premises.

Younus destroys Kiwis

Pakistan sail through

SHARJAH, United Arab Emirates, May 1. (AP) Pakistan's exciting new fast bowler, Waqar Younus was the key to destruction of New Zealand giving his team an easy path into the finals of the \$100,000 Australasia Cup cricket tournament today.

Younus took five wickets for

20 in a nine-over spell. New Zealand could score only a total of 74 runs in 31.1 overs.

Pakistan completed the simplest of victories by scoring 77 for two wickets in 15.2 overs.

Pakistan, the holders, will now meet the winners of tomorrow's semi-final match between World

Cup champions Australia and Sri Lanka.

"The six-nation tournament which began April 25, is worth \$100,000 with the winners after Friday's finals to take home the first prize of \$30,000. The runners-up get \$20,000.

India and Bangladesh were knocked out of the tournament earlier.

Nineteen-year-old Younus is easily the pick of the pace bowlers in this tournament and has so far garnered 15 wickets in three matches — against India, Sri Lanka and New Zealand, giving up only 88 runs.

For the second time in the tournament, Younus took the Man of the Match award and is in line for the Man of the Series prize.

New Zealand elected to bat first after winning the toss. They had a bad start when their top batsman Martin Crowe was dismissed by Wasim Akram for only five runs.

When skipper John Wright, who hurt his shoulder while trying to take a quick run, was bowled by Aaqib Javed with the score at 21, New Zealand's hopes of a sizable total were dashed.

With Akram and spinner Mushtaq Ahmed picking up two wickets apiece, Pakistan then completely routed New Zealand, who barely managed to surpass their previous lowest score of 64, also against Pakistan, in the inaugural Australasia Cup here in 1986.

Wicketkeeper Salim Younsuf played no small part in Pakistan's victory, taking three superb catches, including two brilliant diving ones off Younus. Younus got all his wickets through sheer pace off a wicket, known as a bowler's graveyard.

The championship is organised by Sharjah's cricketers ben-

efit fund series and sponsored by the Japanese firm Sanyo. The southern Gulf emirate of Sharjah boasts the only all-grass cricket pitch in the Middle East.

"We were just outclassed," Wright admitted after the game but he had praise for Jones who struck four boundaries off the 75 deliveries he faced.

Pakistan captain Imran Khan said his bowlers liked the pitch's lack of bounce and added: "Waqar Younus really terrorised the batsmen with his speed and swing."

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND	
M. Crowe c Younsuf b Akram	5
J. Wright b Javed	1
A. Jones c Khan b Ahmed	47
M. Greatbatch c Mansoor Rana (sub) b Akram	4
K. Rutherford c Younsuf b Younus	0
S. Thomson b Younus	4
J. Bracewell c Javed b Ahmed	4
I. Smith c Younsuf b Younus	0
M. Snedden lbw b Younus	1
D. Morrison lbw b Younus	0
J. Millmow not out	0

Extras (lb-4 nb-1 w-3) 8
Total (all out in 31.1 overs) 74
Fall of wickets: 1-7 21-3 37-4 44-5 56-6 65-7 70-8 74-9 74
Bowling: Wasim Akram 6-1-17-2, Aaqib Javed 6-0-2-2-1, Waqar Younus 9-2-20-5, Imran Khan 6-2-7-0, Mushtaq Ahmed 4-1-2-4-2

PAKISTAN	
Saeed Anwar c Thomson b Millmow	3
Salim Younsuf c Crowe b Millmow	25
Salim Malik not out	31
Imran Khan not out	13
Extras (lb-4 nb-1 w-3) 5	
Total (for two wickets, 15.4 overs) 77	
Did not bat: Javed Miandad, Ejaz Ahmed, Wasim Akram, Mushtaq Ahmed, Aaqib Javed, Waqar Younus, Sajjad Akbar	

Fall of wickets: 1-19 2-33
Bowling: Morrison 4-0-32-0, Millmow 5-0-22-2, Thomson 4-1-9-0, Jones 2-0-8-0, Crowe 0-4-0-5-0.



Waqar Younus (left) with Aaqib Javed.

Gower to lead MCC against New Zealand

LONDON, May 1. (Reuters) Former England captain David Gower has been named to lead the MCC team to face New Zealand in their opening one-day cricket match at Lord's next Monday.

With the selectors restricted to choosing players from only three counties because of championship matches being played at the same time, they have resorted to calling up left-arm seamer John Lever although he retired last season.

The 41-year-old will share the new ball duties with Gloucestershire's David Lawrence.

MCC assistant secretary John Jameson said the selectors were forced to call up Lever because several other pacemen were injured.

"Middlesex asked us not to include any of their seamers because they are all struggling with injuries, so we were a bit short of alternatives," Jameson said.

However the promising Middlesex trio of batsmen Mark Ramprakash and Keith Brown and slow left-arm bowler Phil Tufnell and included.

Australians top seeds for hockey event

SYDNEY, May 1. (Reuters) Hosts Australia will rely on 11 members of the squad which won gold at the Seoul Olympics to depose reigning champions the Netherlands in the women's World Cup Hockey Championship starting tomorrow.

But the European sides and Australia, traditionally the strongest teams in women's hockey, are concerned about the increasing threat posed by the Asians, led by South Korea.

Australia are top seeds for the 11-day event ahead of South Korea and the Netherlands, who despite a disappointing display in Seoul — they could only manage bronze — are still considered by many the world's top team.

Until Seoul the Dutch women had won every Olympic gold and every World Cup since 1976, apart from the 1981 World Cup in Argentina.

Australia lost a five-Test series against the Dutch this year, the 16-strong squad beat South Korea 4-0 recently but are worried about their defensive strength ahead of their opening match on Wednesday against China.

"If there was one problem it would be that our defence lacks experience," said coach Brian Glen-cross. "That is where most of the newer players have come in. Our defence may be brittle."

China, seeded ninth, finished second in last year's Inter-Continental Cup to qualify, but they remain a little-known quantity.



Salim Younsuf: good wicketkeeping

Haynes hits ton again

Gooch reappointed England captain

LONDON, May 1. (Reuters) West Indies Test opener Desmond Haynes struck his fourth century in a month as Middlesex drew with Essex in the English County Cricket Championship yesterday.

Haynes, 47 not out when play resumed at Lord's, hit 21 boundaries before he was out for a sparkling 116, rounding off a prolific month in which he amassed two Test hundreds against England and a Sunday League century for Middlesex.

Graham Gooch, reappointed England captain on Monday, responded to Middlesex's challenge of 313 in 55 overs by blasting a six and six fours before he was dismissed for 39 off just 41 deliveries.

But once Gooch had gone Essex settled for a draw, finishing the day on 163 for three.

Graeme Hick, the Zimbabwe-born batsman who will be eligible for England in 1991, hammered an unbeaten 106 and shared a century partnership with Ian Botham for champions Worcestershire against Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Hick hit 10 fours and three sixes and Botham slammed an unbeaten 50, including two sixes

and four fours, in their third-wicket partnership of 117 before Worcestershire declared at 231 for two.

Lancashire failed to respond to a target of 292 off 46 overs, with openers Graeme Fowler and Gehan Mendis reaching 78 without loss at the close.

Hampshire completed a remarkable six-run win over Kent at Canterbury when Chris Smith ran out Richard Davis on the first ball of the final over.

Set 278 to win in 65 overs, Kent appeared to be cruising at 220 for three with 10 overs still remaining. But captain Chris Cowdrey holed out for 107 after putting on 162 for the third wicket with Simon Hinks (82) and then wickets began to tumble.

Greg Thomas and Chris Lewis, England pacemen past and present, helped Northamptonshire and Leicestershire to make winning starts to their respective championship campaigns.

Thomas produced a decisive burst of three wickets for no runs in 11 balls as Yorkshire slumped to defeat against Northants by an innings and 50 runs at Headingley.

Lewis finished with a match

haul of 10 wickets to lead Leicestershire to an easy win over Glamorgan at Cardiff. He trapped Viv Richards leg before after the West Indies captain had added only one run to his overnight 118.

Gooch was reappointed England cricket captain yesterday.

Allan Lamb, his vice-captain on the recent tour to the West Indies, also retains his position for the forthcoming three Tests and two one-day internationals against visitors New Zealand.

The announcement by the Test and County Cricket Board was widely expected after England's brave display on the recent West Indies tour.



Graham Gooch

NZCC gets new sponsor

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, May 1. (Reuters) The New Zealand Cricket Council (NZCC) dropped Rothmans as its prime sponsor yesterday, ending a 29-year-old association with the tobacco company.

But NZCC chairman Barry Paterson said the decision was made on commercial grounds and not because Rothmans sold tobacco.

"At the end of the day commercial grounds have to prevail over sentiment," he said.

Introduce

Whatever the reason, it was a victory for Health Minister Helen Clark who plans to introduce legislation later this year banning tobacco sponsorship and advertising.

"It indicates that alternative sponsorship is available. The pleasure of watching cricket will no longer be marred by an association with tobacco," Clark said.

The name and details of the new sponsor have not been revealed, but newspapers said it will be the state-owned Bank of New Zealand which for two years has been battling with its own financial problems.

The bank declined to comment.

Zoff seeks second trophy of season



Zoff: being released by Juventus

TURIN, Italy, May 1. (Reuters) Dino Zoff is aiming for a glittering, two-trophy finale to two seasons ago.

The Turin club have been through a lean spell but the quality of their squad was emphasised when Italy coach Azzurro Vicini called up goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi, defender Luigi de Agostini, midfielder Giancarlo Marocchi and striker Salvatore Schillaci for his World Cup squad.

But Zoff warned against complacency against a team that looks weaker on paper.

"They (Fiorentina) have managed to reach a Cup final showing a totally different image from that on Sundays in the (Italian) championship," he said.

Fiorentina changed their coach in March, giving the job to Zoff's former Italy team mate Francesco Graziani after sacking Bruno Giorgi a week before the UEFA Cup semifinal first leg against Werder Bremen of West Germany.

The Florence side's hopes of scoring what could be vital goals

away from home rest mainly with their only World Cup player, Roberto Baggio.

Baggio, who has been linked with Juventus' rebuilding plans that included the record signing of West German star Thomas Haessler, finished the League season as second highest scorer with 17 goals.

Fiorentina are appealing against a UEFA ruling that they must play the second leg on May 16 at least 300 km from home because of crowd violence in the second leg of the semifinal against Werder.

Probable teams:

Juventus — Stefano Tacconi, Nicola Napoli, Luigi de Agostini, Roberto Galia, Angelo Alessio, Dario Bonetti, Sergei Aleinikov, Rui Barros, Pier Luigi Casiraghi, Giancarlo Marocchi, Salvatore Schillaci.

Fiorentina — Marco Landucci, Antonio Dell'oglio, Giuseppe Volpeccina, Dunga, Celeste Pin, Sergio Battistini, Marco Nappi, Lubos Kubik, Stefano Buso, Roberto Baggio, Alberto di Chiara.

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